The Moon and the Sandals Vol. 7

月とサンダル

by Fumi Yoshinaga

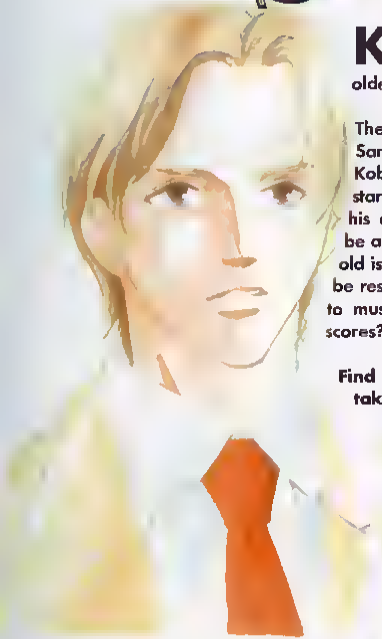
PARENTAL EXPLICIT CONTENT ADVISORY

June Yaoi Manga

The Moon and Sandals 7
Fumi Yoshinaga
June

The Moon and the Sandals Vol. 2

月とサンダル



Kabayashi, Toyo, Ida, Hashizume and Rikuka... everyone has gotten a little older but are they any wiser?

The loveable characters of The Moon and the Sandals saga begin a new chapter in their lives. Kobayashi and Toyo have both successfully started their careers, Hashizume now heads his own restaurant and Rikuko is studying to be a doctor. But amidst all this seeming success, old issues still lurk below the surface, waiting to be resolved. Question is... Will the gang be able to muster enough maturity to finally settle old scores?

Find out which paths these characters will take in this second instollment of The Moon and the Sandals, brought to you by the creator of the award-winning Antique Bokery series. Grab a copy and get caught up in the merry, moon shining shenanigans.

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M FOR MATURE AUDIENCES 18+

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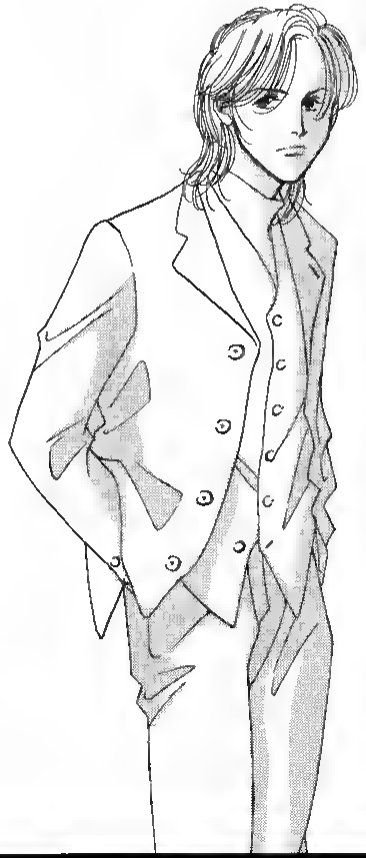
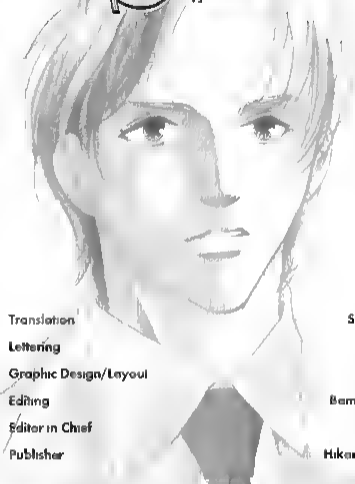
THE MOON AND THE SANDALS 2



THE MOON AND THE SANDALS V.2

月とサンダル



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KOICHI KOBAYASHI

A SECOND-YEAR STUDENT AT A RUN-OF-THE-MILL PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL. HIS FIRST LOVE IS MR. IDA OF WORLD HISTORY, BUT HIS CURRENT LOVE IS TOYO NARUMI. HIS HOBBY IS COOKING.

TOYO NARUMI

ONE YEAR SENIOR TO KOBAYASHI, TOYO HAS GREAT BRAINS BUT A BA PERSONALITY. KOBAYASHI CALLS HIM BY THE NICKNAME "GIANT". A TRAIT OF HIS, THAT DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE MAIN STORY, IS THAT HE CANNOT CARRY A TUNI

SHU IDA (NEE HASHIZUME)

RYO IDA'S LOVER. DUE TO HASHIZUME'S "MARRAGE" TO ID (THOUGH OFFICIALLY AN ADOPTIO HIS LAST NAME IS NOW IDA AS WELL, BUT RYO STILL CALLS HIM "HASHIZUME". A CHEF.

RYO IDA

TEACHER OF KOBAYASHI'S WORLD HISTORY CLASS.

RIKUKO NARUMI

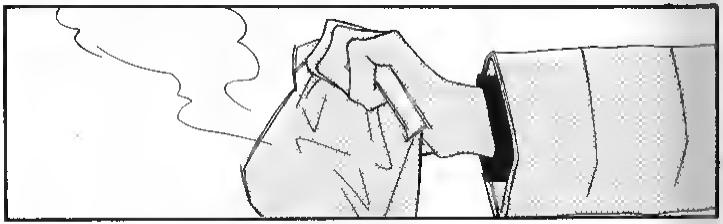
A.K.A. "NARU-CHAN". A GIRL WITH UNUSUAL TASTE, SUCH AS HER CRUSH ON KOBAYASHI. SINCE KOBAYASHI IS A TRUE GAY, SHE WAS, OF COURSE, REJECTED BY HIM. TOYO'S YOUNGER SISTER

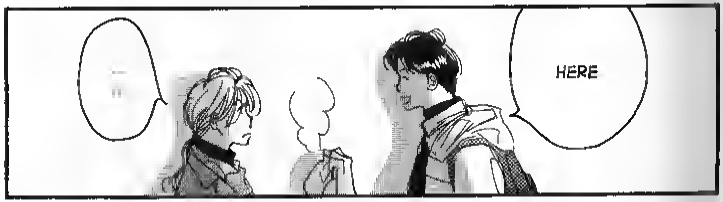
GIRL A & BOY B – RIKUKO AND KOBAYASHI'S CLASSMATES BOTH ARE QUITE COLD TOWARD KOBAYASHI

THE REASON FOR NOT HAVING STRAIGHT A'S IS –
THERE IS NO PAPER TEST IN MY ELECTIVE OF ART
...
AS FOR MY ARTISTIC ABILITIES–
DOG!
GRADE POINT AVERAGE 4.9

I'LL JUST GO BUY 'EM, THEN
WHA...!
WAIT HERE.

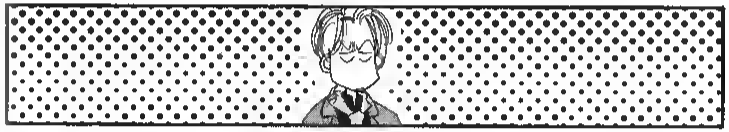
?! HUH?!
COME ON - I KNOW YOU REALLY WANT SOME.
IF YOU WANT SOME, JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT

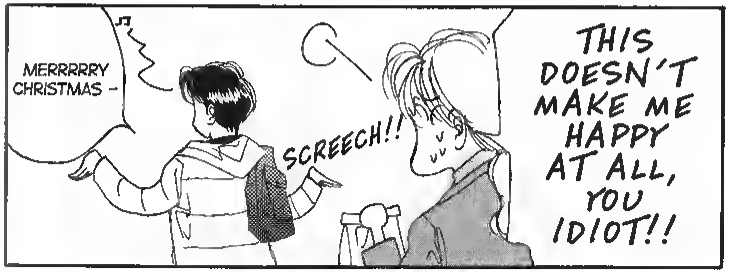



HERE

HEY.
LAWSON
WANT SOME MEAT BUNS?
NOT PARTICULARLY.
?

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT



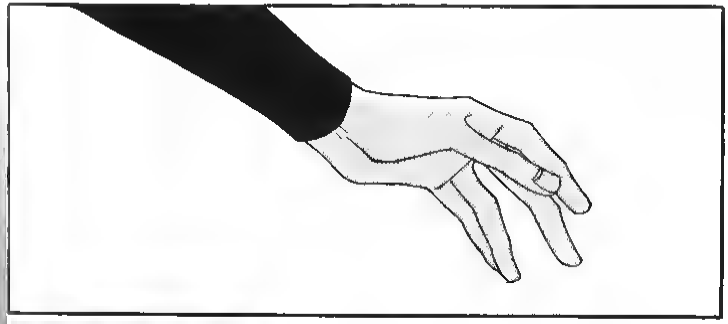

MERRRRRY CHRISTMAS –
SCREECH!!
THIS DOESN'T MAKE ME HAPPY AT ALL, YOU IDIOT!!

END

HASHIZUME, I'M OUT OF THE BATH... HUH?
AH... YES...
OH, SORRY - YOU'RE ON THE PHONE...
HUH...? THAT'S UNUSUAL. FOR HASHIZUME TO RIP OPEN AN ENVELOPE BY HAND... HE MUST'VE BEEN IN A REAL HURRY..
OP. PROPOSED MARRIAGE WITH MY DAUGHTER
IDA...

RIP
RIP
RIP
MR. SHU IDA
...
PRRRRRING

HASHIZUME?
OH...



BUT...

SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO LOOK –
OH –
HASHIZUME
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT

CREAK
HEY, HASHIZUME... IT'S NOT THAT I MIND, BUT...
D..DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

O...
OH –
H–...
...I KNEW IT...
SOMETHING *DID* HAPPEN, DIDN'T IT...
FLINCH!!

OH.....!
...
....
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER

Stop
DON'T
DON'T -
OH
UHH
OH -
I
CAN'T -
...HASHIZUME
NOT THAT - I
I DON'T - !!
WH
WHOA -
HEY -
HEY !!
SQUELCH
OH OH
OH!

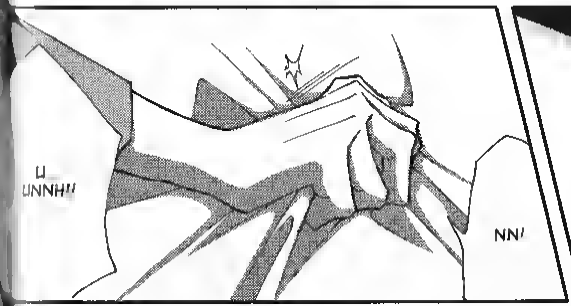
YOUR OWN STORE...?
WHAT?

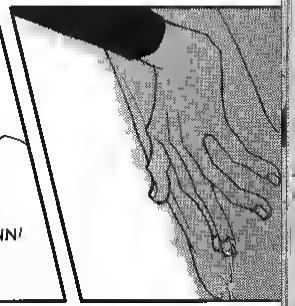
GET INSIDE ME...
I CAN'T STAND IT

THAT'S WHEN I TOLD HER EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU AND ME. AFTER THAT, I HONESTLY DIDN'T THINK I WAS GOING TO BE ABLE TO WORK THERE ANYMORE
OH -

WH- WHY SO SUDDENLY...?
IT'S BECAUSE I DECLINED HER DAUGHTER'S HAND IN MARRIAGE THE OTHER DAY.

IN THE LETTER AND ON THE PHONE JUST NOW THE LADY OWNER OF MY RESTAURANT IS GOING TO FUND IT
THAT'S RIGHT.

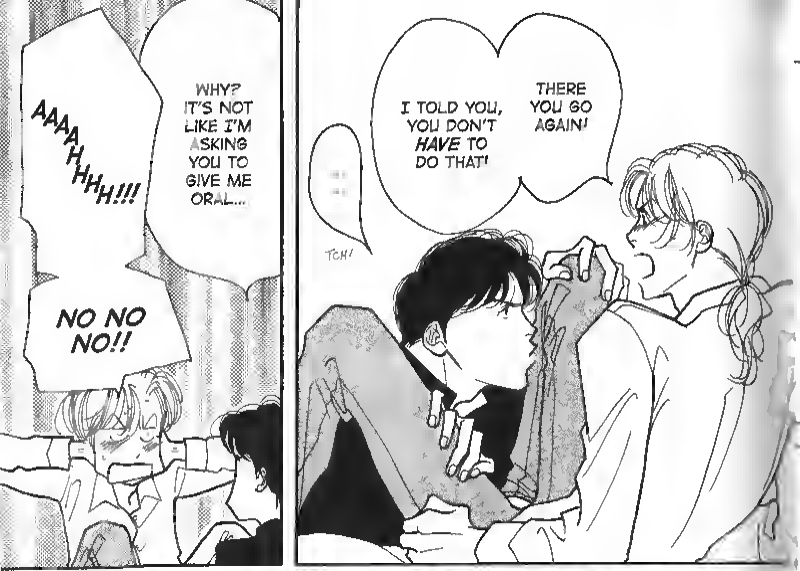

U- UNNH!
NN!



I WAS JUST OVERCOME BY SHEER HAPPINESS
EMBARRASSED
OHHH - SO THAT'S WHY.

END

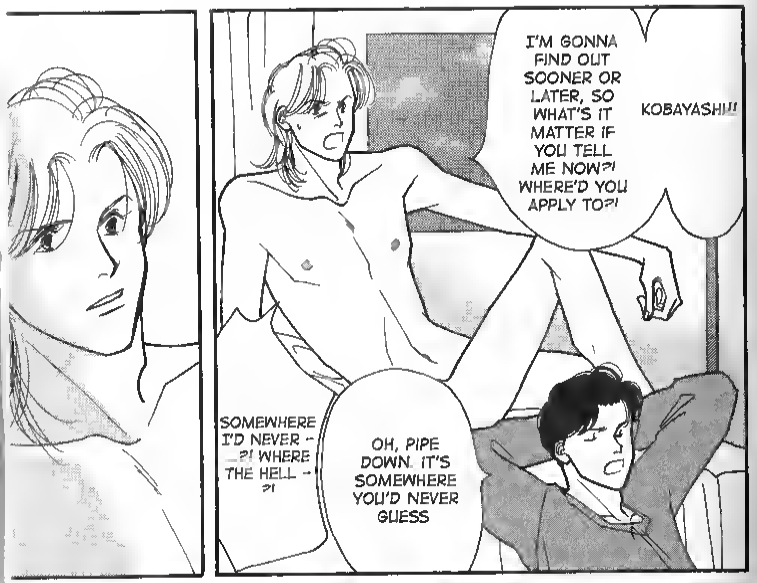
THAT'S WHEN SHE ACTUALLY DID THE OPPOSITE, AND GAVE YOU YOUR OWN STORE.
I GET IT -
BUT -
I REALLY CAN'T THANK HER ENOUGH.
I CAN'T EVEN STAND UP.
THEN HASHIZUME JUST NOW - WHY WERE YOU SO -?


AAAAHHHH!!!
WHY? IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ASKING YOU TO GIVE ME ORAL...
NO NO NO!!
I TOLD YOU, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT!
THERE YOU GO AGAIN!
TCH!

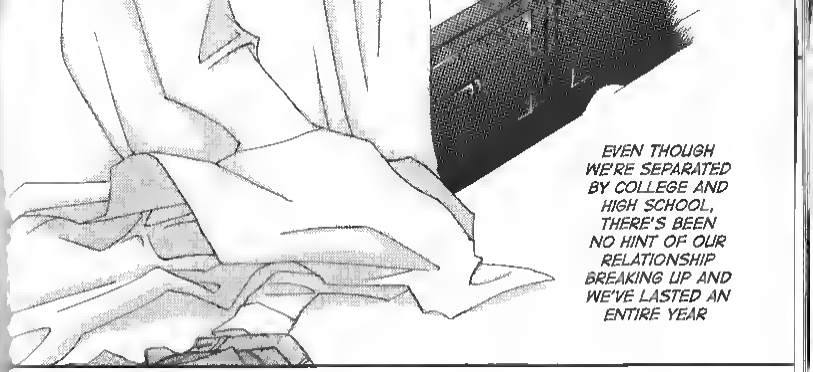
...I DUNNO, I'M JUST NOT INTO THE IDEA OF ORAL SEX...
I CAN DO THAT, BUT...
...COULD IT BE YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO CAN'T DRINK OUT OF A SHARED SODA CAN?

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE GIANT GOT INTO COLLEGE SOON I'LL BE GRADUATING, TOO.
NOT MINE -
WHAAAT? BUT ISN'T THAT EVERY MAN'S DREAM?

OH -

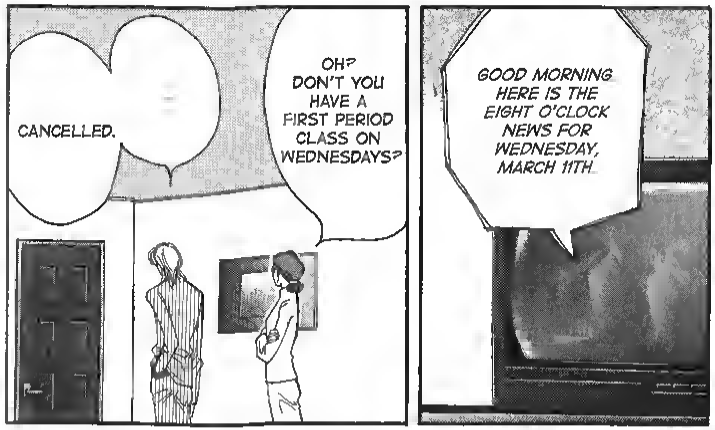

I'M GONNA FIND OUT SOONER OR LATER, SO WHAT'S IT MATTER IF YOU TELL ME NOW?! WHERE'D YOU APPLY TO?!
KOBAYASHI!!
SOMEWHERE I'D NEVER —?! WHERE THE HELL —?!
OH, PIPE DOWN. IT'S SOMEWHERE YOU'D NEVER GUESS

YEAH, IT'S NOT IN HOKKAIDO OR OKINAWA... BUT IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
MMM —
YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL ME YOU APPLIED TO SOME UNIVERSITY FAR AWAY IN HOKKAIDO OR OKINAWA, ARE YOU?
...HA HA

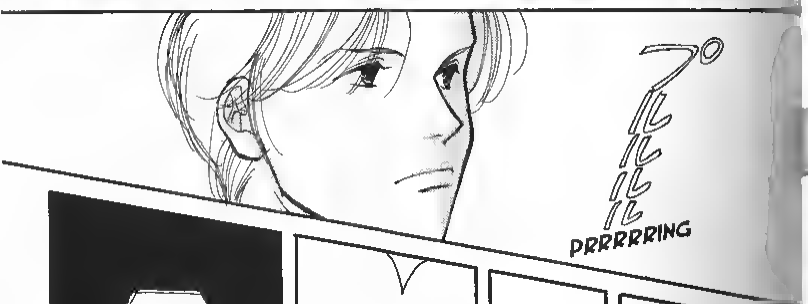

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE SEPARATED BY COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL, THERE'S BEEN NO HINT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP BREAKING UP AND WE'VE LASTED AN ENTIRE YEAR

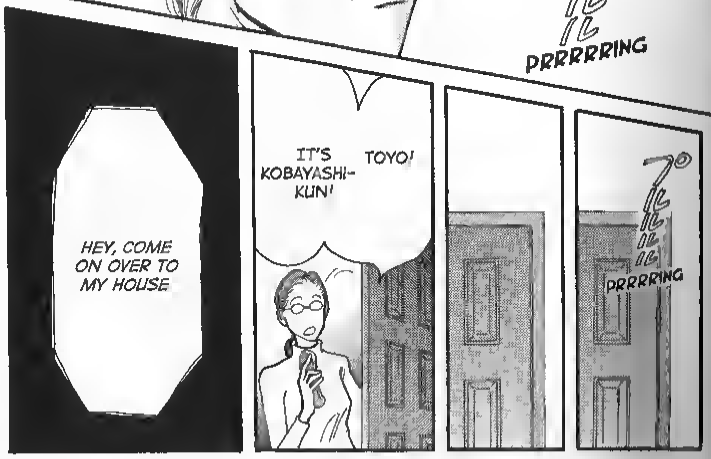
...HEY
GIANT'S FOOT
WHACK
MMM —
I'LL WAIT A BIT LONGER TO TELL YOU AFTER ALL, MY ACCEPTANCE ISN'T OFFICIAL YET.
TELL ME WHICH COLLEGE YOU APPLIED TO ALREADY ENTRANCE EXAMS HAVE BEEN OVER FOR A LONG TIME NOW, RIGHT?
HMM?

JUST WAIT AND SEE YOU'LL KNOW BY WEDNESDAY.

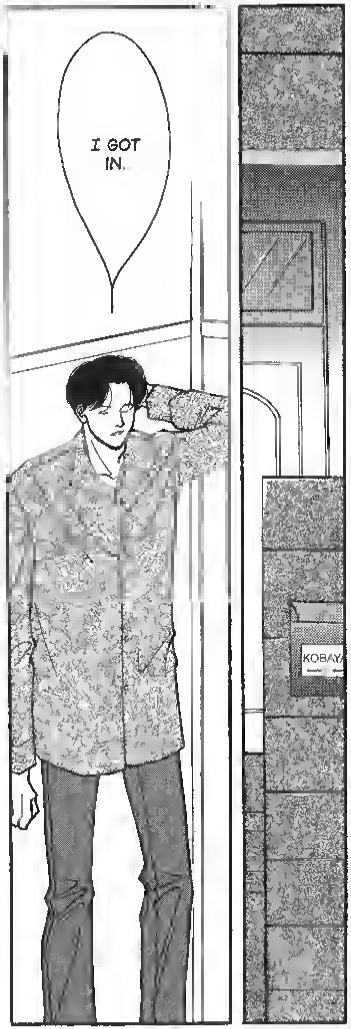

CANCELLED.
OH? DON'T YOU HAVE A FIRST PERIOD CLASS ON WEDNESDAYS?
GOOD MORNING. HERE IS THE EIGHT O'CLOCK NEWS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH.

WELCOME HOME DARLING!
TABITHA IS ALREADY ASLEEP. HOW WAS WORK TODAY?


PRRRRRING


HEY, COME ON OVER TO MY HOUSE
IT'S TOYO! KOBAYASHI-KUN!
PRRRRING

CONGRATS


I GOT IN.
KOBAY

...
...
...
YEAH.
OKAY.

- GIANT

HUH?!
WHOA
GIA-
HUH...?

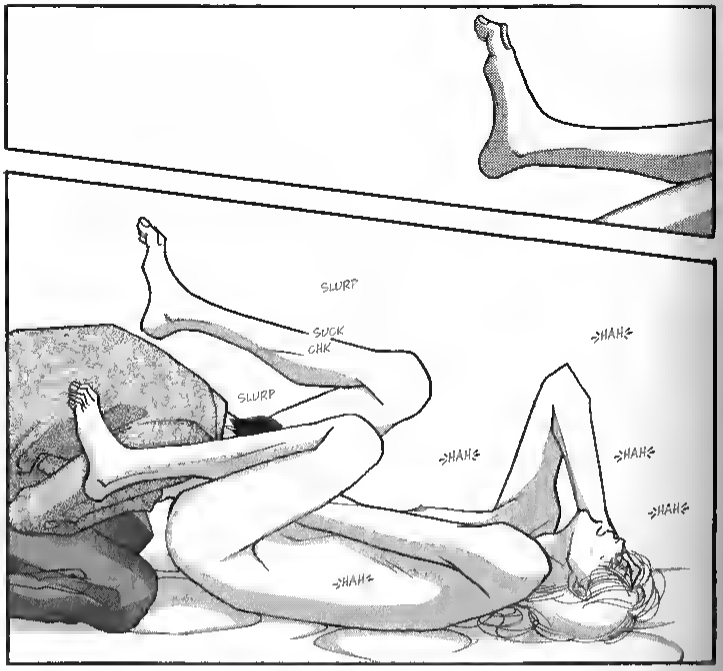
N
NN...
MM -
MM...
SHOO
...
...

HEY
...
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?
...
...

-HAH!-

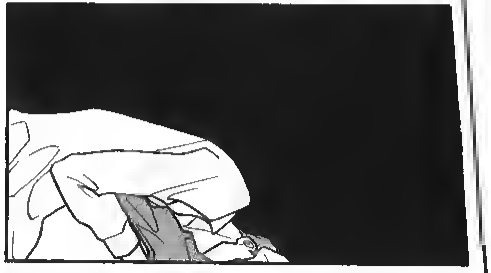
– TOYO

AHH –
IT'S GOOD REAL GOOD
BUT
TUG
GRAB
WHAT'S WRONG?
HEY –


SLURP
SUCK
CHK
SLURP
>HAH<
>HAH<
>HAH<
>HAH<
>HAH<

IS IT GOOD?
HEY.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

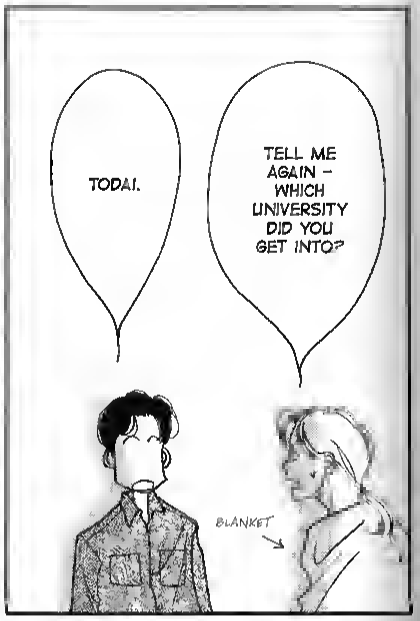


WOULD IT PAIN YOU TO BE APART FROM ME?

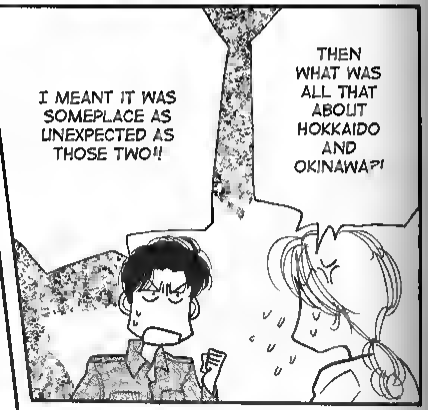
NNNN - ?!
NNNGH!
NNNN -
GMGH
SHIVER SHIVER SHIVER!
JERK
=>HAH=
JERK
=>HAH=
TWITCH
=>HAH=
SLOP

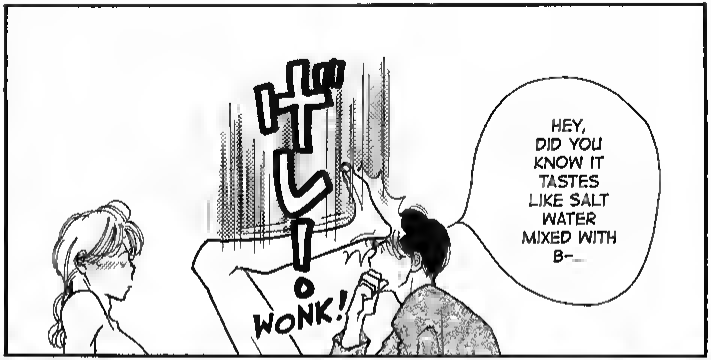
THEN DON'T ASK!!
I GUESS IT'S OBVIOUS FROM JUST LOOKING...
HEY.
!!
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP

UH, NO... I COULDN'T GET IN... BUT I DID MANAGE TO GET INTO LITERATURE III...
OF COURSE HE BARELY GOT INTO THAT AS IT IS
WHAT?! BUT THAT'S WHERE I AM!! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE IN LITERATURE I AS WELL - ?!


TODAI.
TELL ME AGAIN - WHICH UNIVERSITY DID YOU GET INTO?
BLANKET

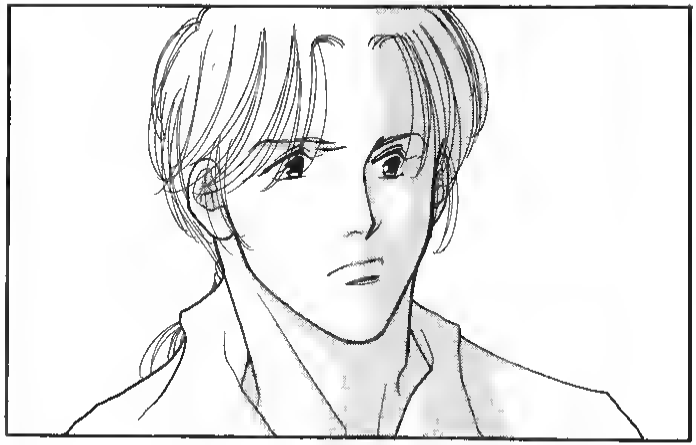
I WAS SERIOUS, BUT IF I'D TOLD YOU BEFORE I ACTUALLY GOT IN YOU'D HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE

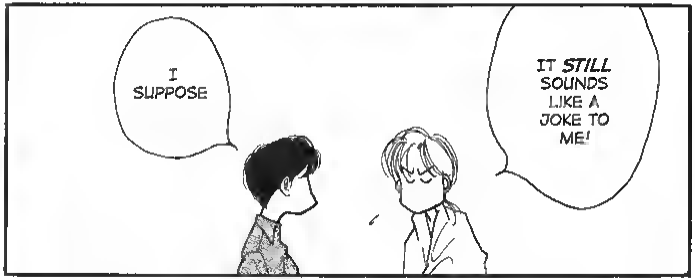

I MEANT IT WAS SOMEPLACE AS UNEXPECTED AS THOSE TWO!!
THEN WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT HOKKAIDO AND OKINAWA?!

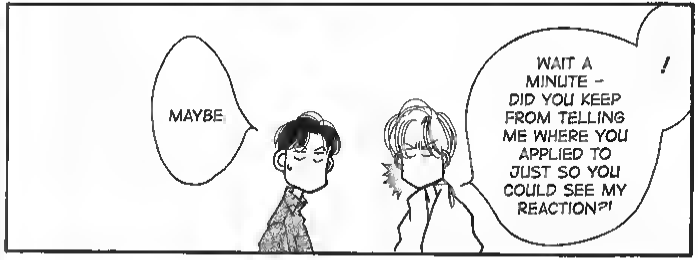

WONK!
HEY, DID YOU KNOW IT TASTES LIKE SALT WATER MIXED WITH B-...

DAMN.. THIS HOT FLUSH WON'T LEAVE MY FACE...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SHIVER
HUFF
OWW-!

HUH?



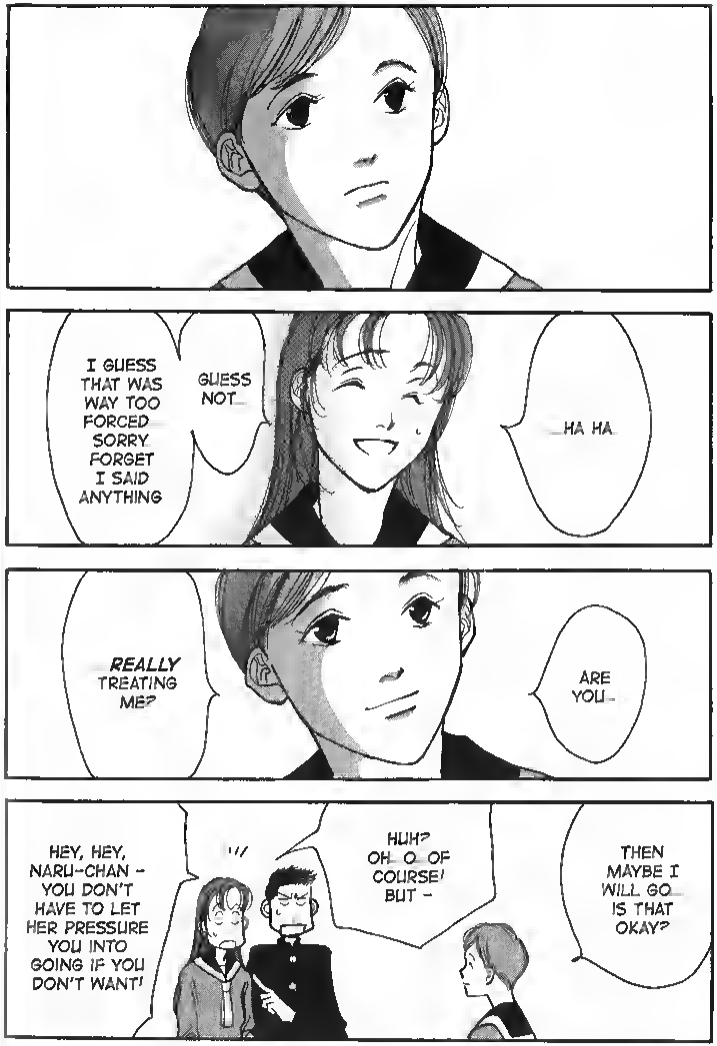

I SUPPOSE
IT STILL SOUNDS LIKE A JOKE TO ME!


MAYBE
WAIT A MINUTE – DID YOU KEEP FROM TELLING ME WHERE YOU APPLIED TO JUST SO YOU COULD SEE MY REACTION?!
!

END

NARU-CHAN
SEEMS
DEPRESSED.

THERE'S THIS PLACE I'VE BEEN TO ONCE BEFORE, WHERE YOU CAN GET AFTERNOON TEA WITH AN ASIAN DIM SUM THEME!
YOUR PLAN IS TOO SIMPLISTIC! BASING IT ON FOOD -
OW!!
THWAP
YAAAY
YEAH, YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS, BUT IT SEEMS IT WAS KOBAYASHI WHO REJECTED NARU-CHAN AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
GAZE.
HEY, DOESN'T NARU-CHAN SEEM DEPRESSED LATELY?
SIGH
I FEEL SO BADLY FOR POOR NARU-CHAN... WE'VE GOT TO CHEER HER UP!
OOOH, THAT KOBAYASHI - IT'S UNFORGIVABLE!!
TO BE DUMPED BY THAT GUY
WOW, THAT SUCKS FOR HER
THEY'VE GOT SPRING ROLLS AND SESAME BALLS AND STUFF... ALL ON THIS THREE-TIERED SERVER. THE CAKES ARE REALLY GOOD, TOO -
OH...BUT MAYBE YOU'RE SHORT ON CASH? THEN I'LL TREAT YOU - I'M LOADED TODAY! LET'S GO! OKAY, NARU-CH-
HEY, HEY - WANNA GO OUT FOR TEA SOMEWHERE?
NARRRRU-CHAN!


HEY, HEY, NARU-CHAN - YOU DON'T HAVE TO LET HER PRESSURE YOU INTO GOING IF YOU DON'T WANT!
HUH? OH... OF COURSE! BUT -
THEN MAYBE I WILL GO... IS THAT OKAY?
I GUESS THAT WAS WAY TOO FORCED... SORRY. FORGET I SAID ANYTHING
GUESS NOT...
HA HA...
REALLY TREATING ME?
ARE YOU...

BUT I'M GRATEFUL FOR THAT PRESSURE
THANK YOU
THANK YOU...

AHAHAHAHA!

WHAT?!
OH, SO YOU'VE CHECKED IT OUT, TOO? OK, OK - DON'T WORRY, HE'LL PAY FOR ANY EXCESSES!
OKAY, NOW THAT THAT'S DECIDED, LET'S GO! YOU KNOW WHAT'S REALLY GOOD AT THAT PLACE? THEIR NASI GORENG WITH FRIED EGG ON TOP!
INDONESIAN FRIED RICE
THUMP!
YOU'RE KIDDING ME.

END

WHILE GIANT AND KOBAYASHI...

HOW RUDE
...
I'M—!
SLAM!
KOBA—
...

HURRY...!
I WAS BACK A LONG TIME AGO

...
...DED IT NEAR BACK

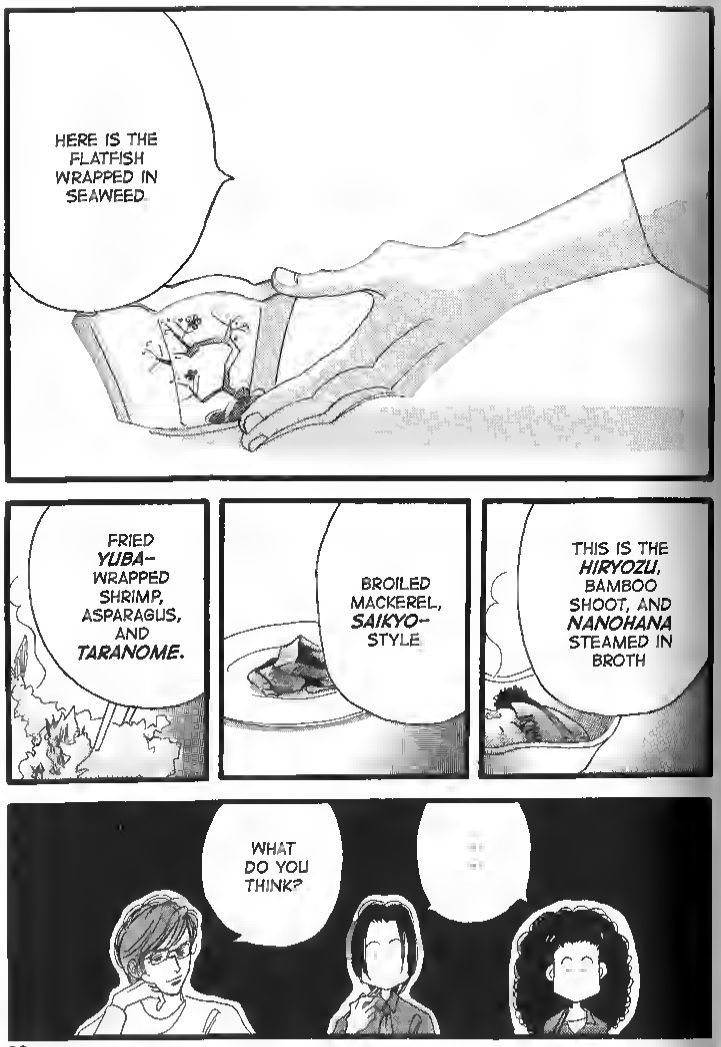
NOW NOW - CALM DOWN, GIANT

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES GET TRANSFERRED TO POSTS NATIONWIDE, AND –
HUH?
BECAUSE THAT WOULD MEAN THAT I –
HUH?
I REALLY AM BEING FORCED INTO HIS PACE!!
IS THAT WHY?! IS THAT WHY I CHOSE THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE?!
END

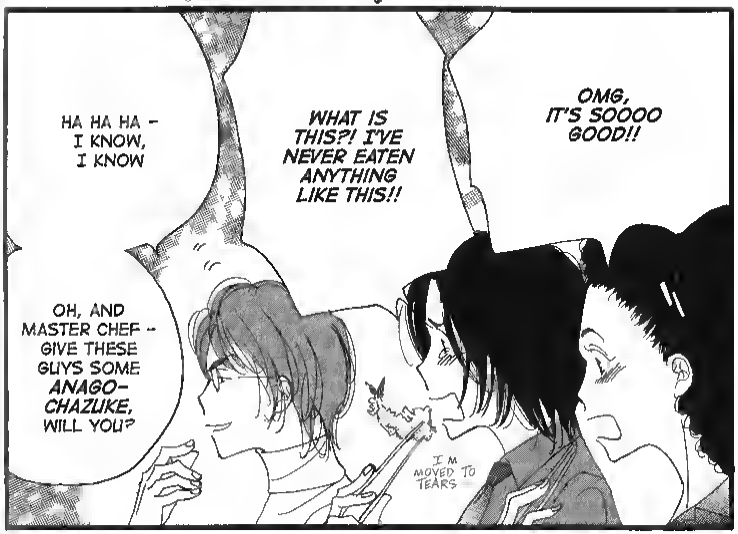
HEY, GIANT –
NOT GOOD. I'VE BEEN FORCED INTO HIS PACE LATELY..

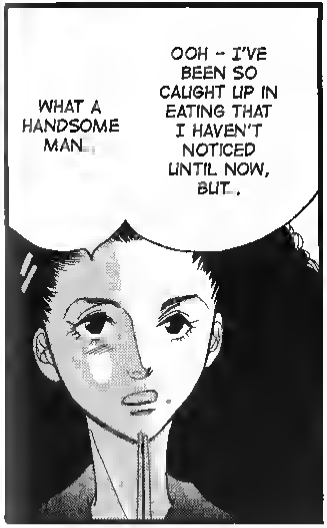
I FORGOT TO ASK YOU, BUT DID YOU EVER PASS THAT TEST FOR THE GOVERNMENT POST?
WHAT

BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE SUCH AN UNPOPULAR OCCUPATION.
IF YOU'RE GONNA BE A PUBLIC OFFICIAL, WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER TO TAKE THE BAR EXAM AND BE A PUBLIC PROSECUTOR OR A JUDGE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I SEE...
OH, THAT – OF COURSE I PASSED. I'M GOING TO BE WORKING IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE


HERE IS THE FLATFISH WRAPPED IN SEAWEED.
FRIED *YUBA*-WRAPPED SHRIMP, ASPARAGUS, AND *TARANOME*.
BROILED MACKEREL, *SAIKYO*-STYLE
THIS IS THE *HIRYOZU*, BAMBOO SHOOT, AND *NANOHANA* STEAMED IN BROTH
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

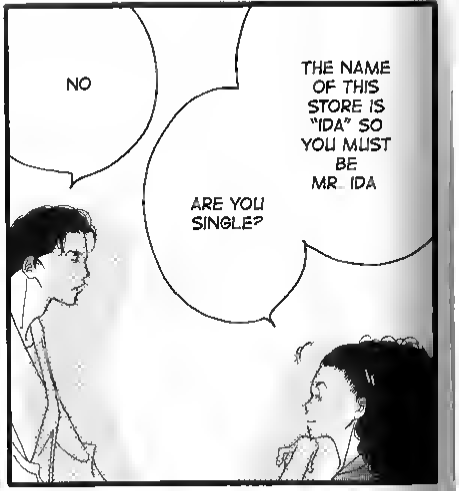
AS FOR THE OTHER MAN...


HAS NEVER EATEN PROPER FORMAL JAPANESE CUISINE BEFORE
OMG, IT'S SOOOO GOOD!!
WHAT IS THIS?! I'VE NEVER EATEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS!!
HA HA HA - I KNOW, I KNOW
OH, AND MASTER CHEF - GIVE THESE GUYS SOME ANAGO-CHAZUKE, WILL YOU?
I'M MOVED TO TEARS


WHAT A HANDSOME MAN...
OOH - I'VE BEEN SO CAUGHT UP IN EATING THAT I HAVEN'T NOTICED UNTIL NOW, BUT...

COMING RIGHT UP

WOW, SO WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS YOUR WIFE?
WELL, THAT SURE DASHED MY HOPES QUICKLY.


NO
THE NAME OF THIS STORE IS "IDA" SO YOU MUST BE MR. IDA
ARE YOU SINGLE?

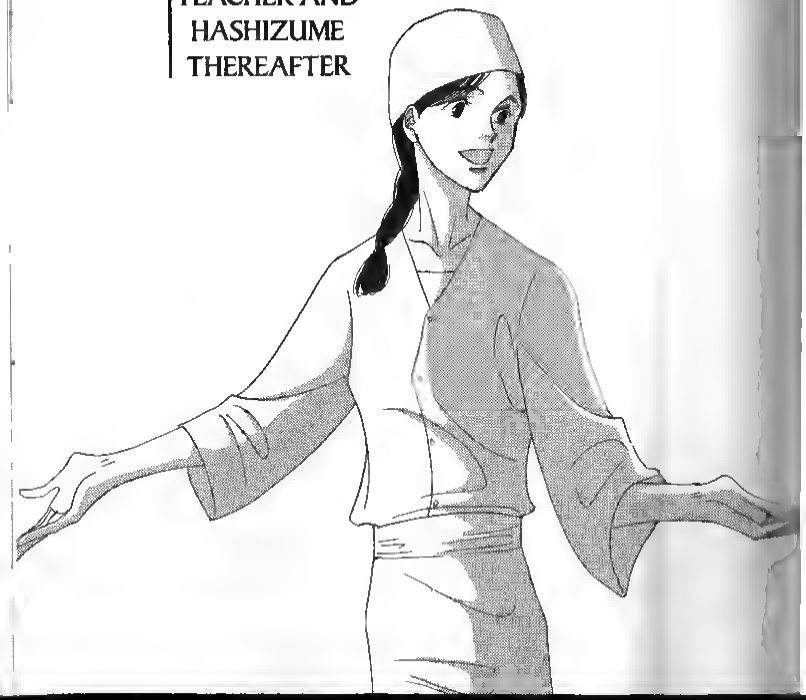
VERY BEAUTIFUL...
MUMBLE

IS IT AN ALLERGY? I'M ALSO GETTING CHILLS DOWN MY SPINE...
HA-CHOO!
HA-CHOO!
HA-CHOO!

END

HASHIZUME SOON NEEDED SOME HELP IN HIS STORE -

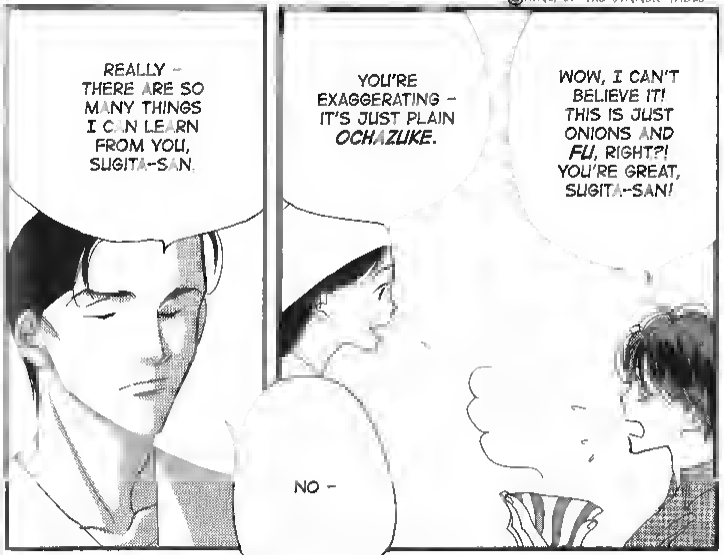
TEACHER AND HASHIZUME THEREAFTER

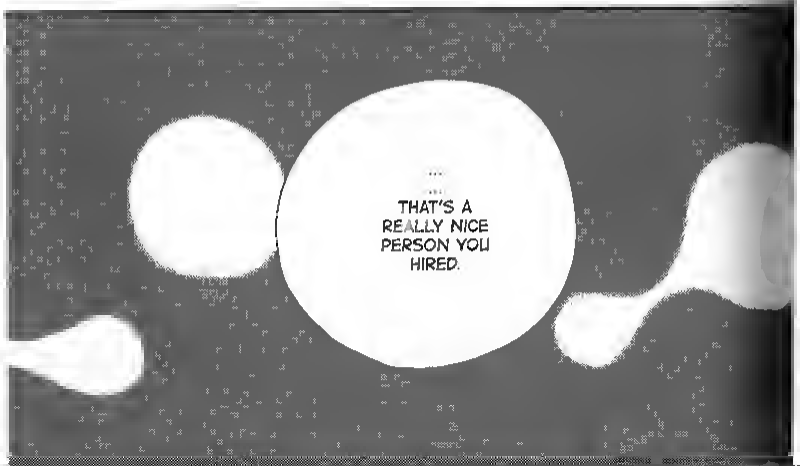


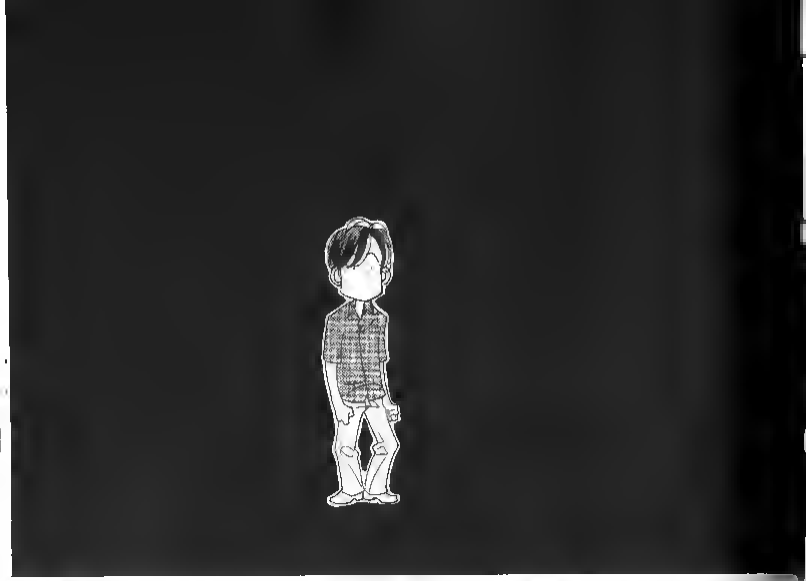
I'M GLAD SHE'S A GOOD CONVERSATIONALIST
OH STOP! OF COURSE NOT!
SO MISS SUGITA - ARE YOU THE OWNER'S "SPECIAL SOMEONE"?
POT
OH? THEN MAYBE I'LL TRY CHATTING YOU UP!
WE'LL BE CLOSING SOON, BUT I'LL GET YOU SOME *OCHAZUKE* TO TIDE YOU OVER
OH, PLEASE - NO TROUBLE
I'M MARRIED
SORRY -
SUGITA-SAN IS A VERY TALENTED CHEF IN HER OWN RIGHT.

...AND SO HE HIRED AN ASSISTANT CHEF - KAORI SUGITA (28)

©KING OF THE DINNER TABLE

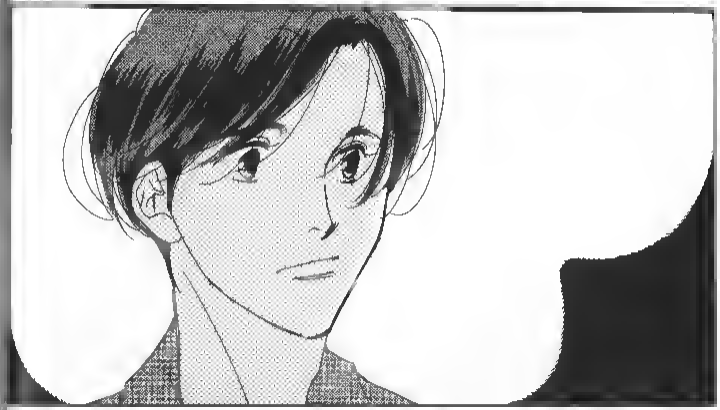

REALLY - THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I CAN LEARN FROM YOU, SUGITA-SAN.
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING - IT'S JUST PLAIN *OCHAZUKE*.
WOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THIS IS JUST ONIONS AND *FU*, RIGHT?! YOU'RE GREAT, SUGITA-SAN!
NO -

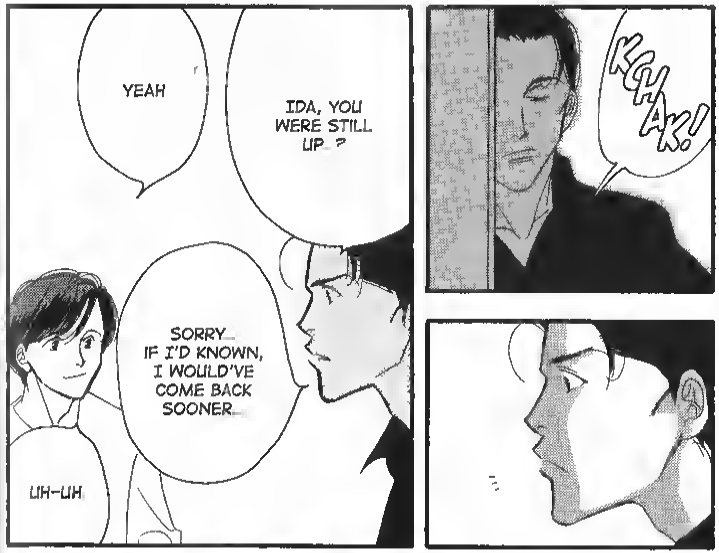


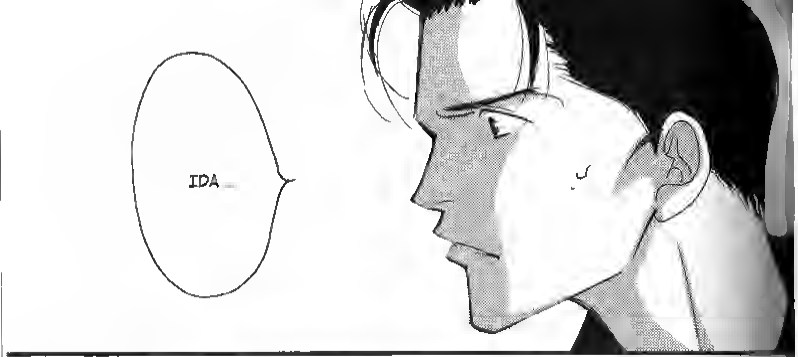


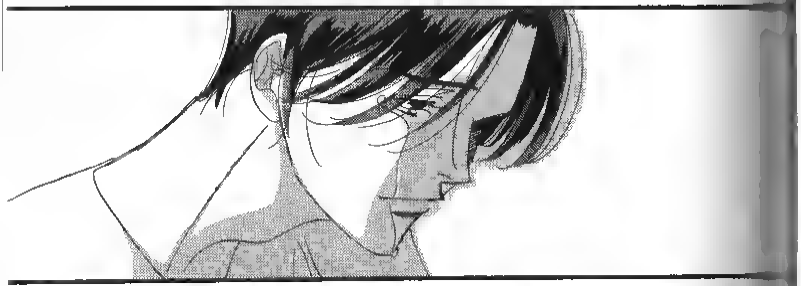
MM.
SO SHE'S MARRIED, HUH?
THAT'S A LIE.
ACCORDING TO HER, IT'S EASIER TO DEAL WITH CUSTOMERS UNDER THE PRETENSE THAT SHE'S MARRIED
SHE'S ACTUALLY SINGLE

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP




YEAH
IDA, YOU WERE STILL UP...?
SORRY... IF I'D KNOWN, I WOULD'VE COME BACK SOONER...
UH-UH
KCHAK!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER...

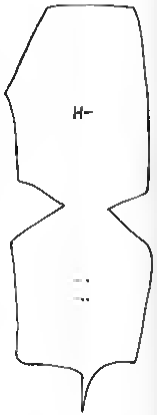

IDA...

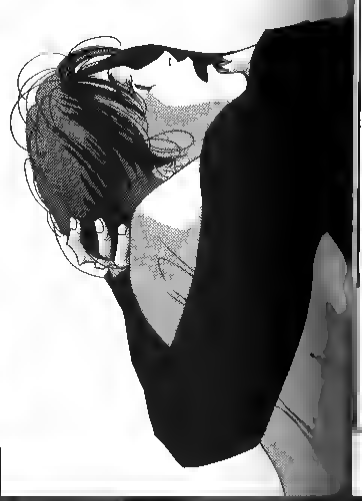


I LOVE YOU, HASHIZUME.

AS LONG AS YOU COME HOME TO ME, THAT'S ALL I ASK...

87





86

I--
LO-
Y-
MM...

I LOVE YOU,
HASHIZUME...!!

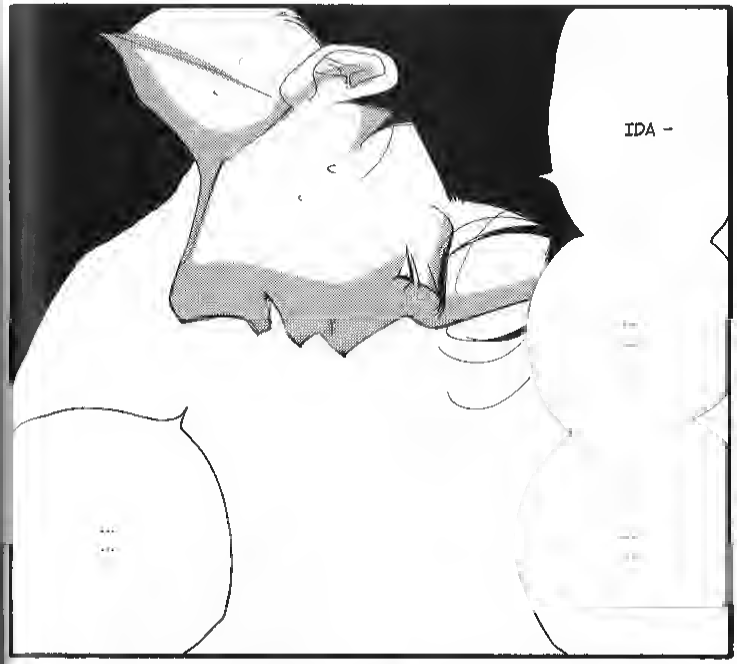
I LOV-
OH
UH NN
UH
DO IT SOME MORE
I LOVE YOU -
DO ME -

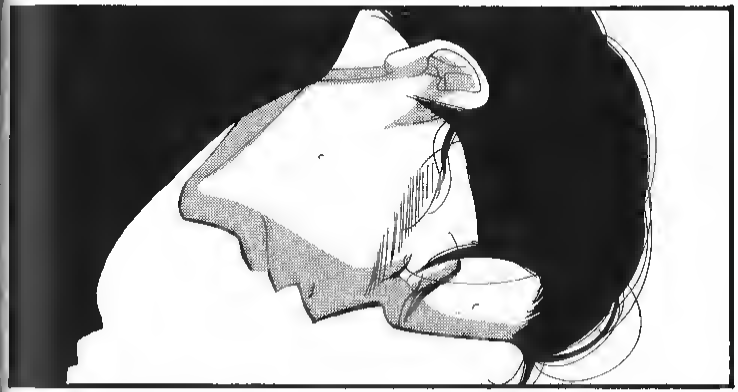
HASHIZUME -
. ARE YOU EMBARRASSED?

YEAH...
PUT IT IN..
IDA -
TODAY...
IS IT...
..CAN WE..?

OH, NOT THERE - DON'T..!!
OH..!
OH - OKAY, YEAH - I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE..
SCUBWCH
SCUBWCH
SCUBWCH

I LOVE YOU, TOO!
HURRY, PUT IT IN MEEE -...!!

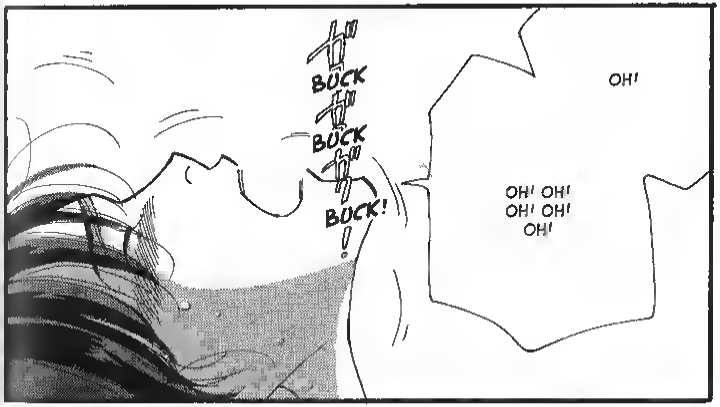

IDA -
...
...

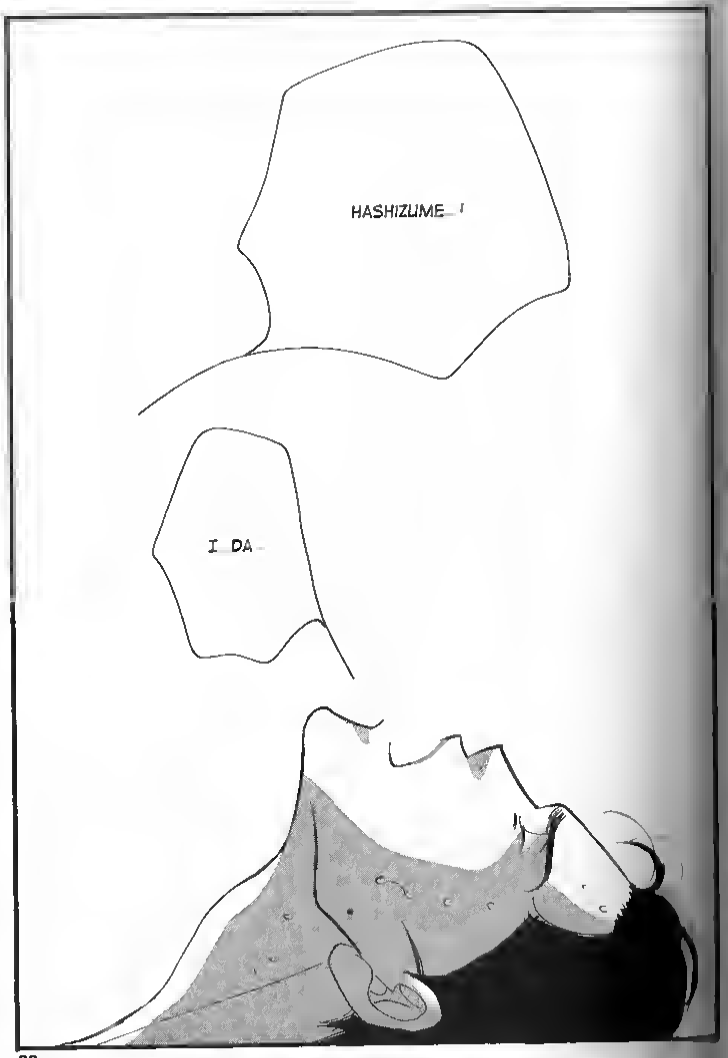


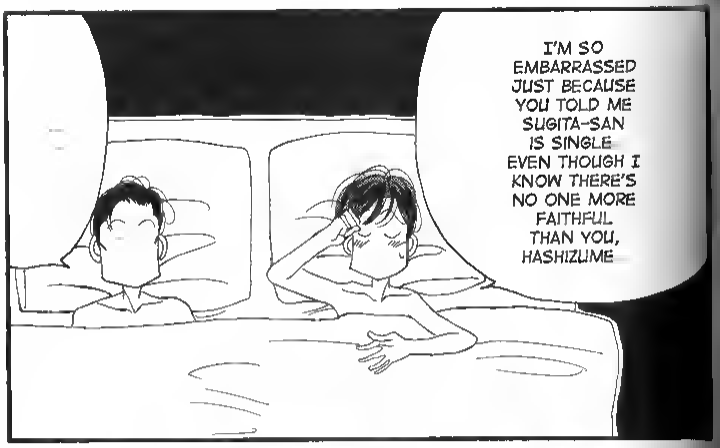
→HUFF...←
→HUFF...←
H..
→HAH←
→HAH←
→HAH←
→HAH←
→HAH←
→HAH←

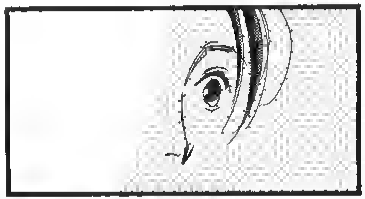
NOW YOU
PUSH...

OH!!
EQUELCH!


BUCK
BUCK
BUCK!
OH!
OH! OH!
OH! OH!
OH!


HASHIZUME!
I DA


I'M SO EMBARRASSED JUST BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME SUGITA-SAN IS SINGLE EVEN THOUGH I KNOW THERE'S NO ONE MORE FAITHFUL THAN YOU, HASHIZUME



?

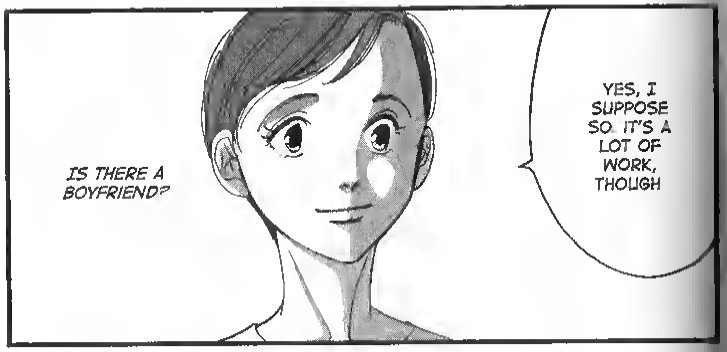
I COULD UNDERSTAND IF IT WAS ANOTHER MAN, BUT SUGITA-SAN IS A WOMAN
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

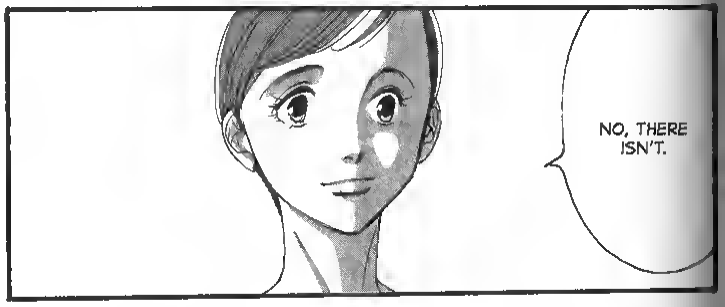
I JUST BECAME SO WORRIED ALL OF A SUDDEN

UPON HIRING MISS SUGITA
WHAT A PLEASANT, EASY-GOING WOMAN...
MISS SUGITA, THIS STORE'S NAME OF "IDA" IS TAKEN FROM THE NAME OF MY GAY LOVER, AND MY OFFICIAL LAST NAME OF RECORD IS NOW ACTUALLY IDA AS WELL. NOW THAT YOU KNOW THIS, ARE YOU STILL WILLING TO WORK HERE?
YAY, A WORKPLACE WITHOUT FEAR OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT.
OF COURSE!
END

WE'RE GAY, AREN'T WE?
...THAT'S RIGHT...
THAT'S RIGHT.

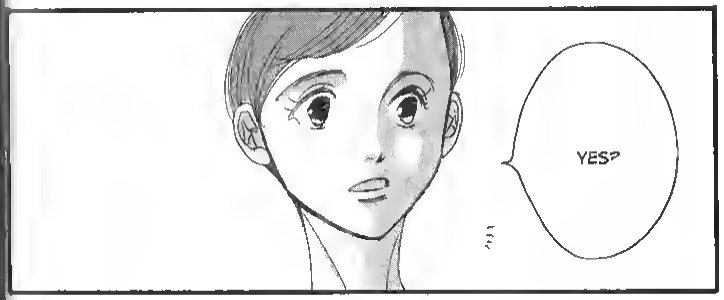
NARU-CHAN THEREAFTER



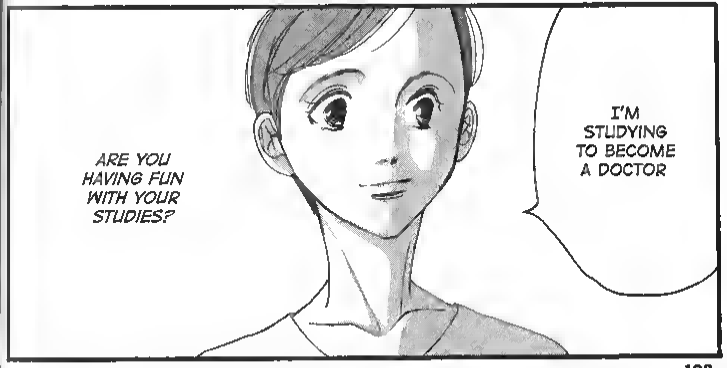


ARE YOU HAPPY WITH YOUR LIFE?

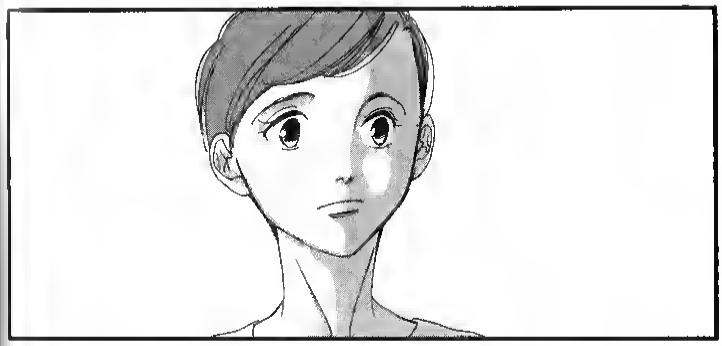
NARU-CHAN
NARU-CHAN

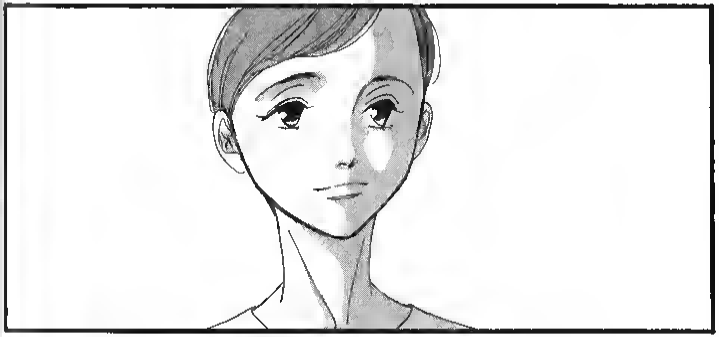


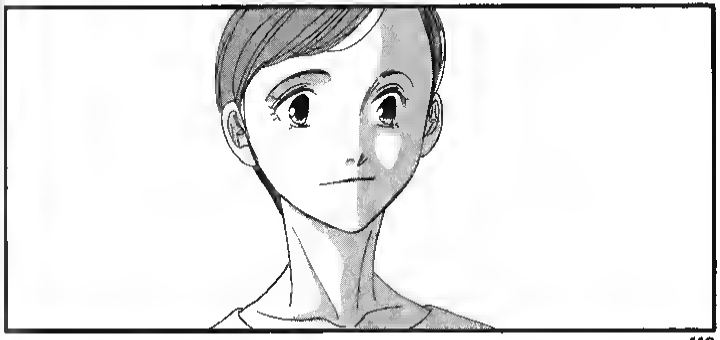
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?



I SEE





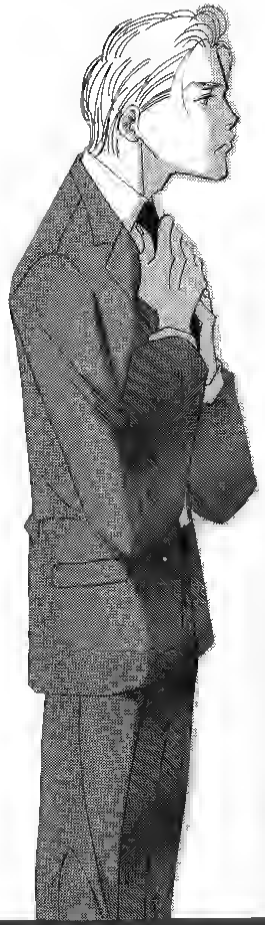


KOBAYASHI AND GIANT THEREAFTER

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

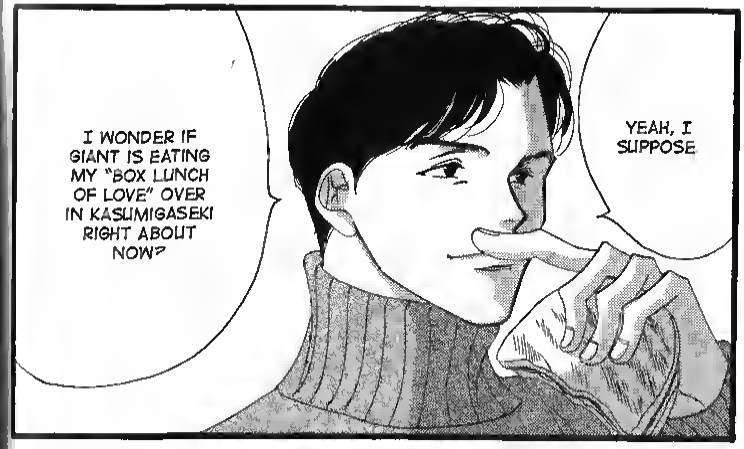
END

IT'S THE SECOND WINTER SINCE I BEGAN WORKING IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AS FOR KOBAYASHI -



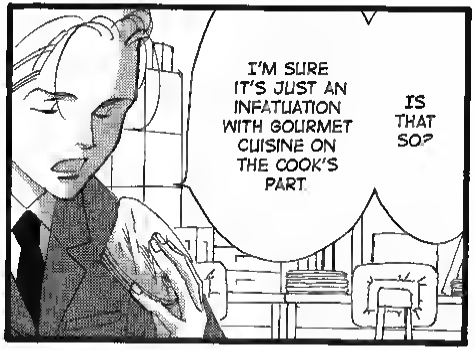
I NEVER THOUGHT THERE WOULD COME A DAY WHEN YOU WOULD END UP TEACHING WORLD HISTORY AT OUR SCHOOL, KOBAYASHI.
HMM. STEWED SQUID AND DAIKON RADISH, RICE ROLLS WITH SPINACH, *GOMOKU-INARI* WITH SESAME, AND FRIED SCALLOPS-AND-*MITSUBA*.
THAT DAMNED HASHIZUME - A BOX LUNCH FULL OF LOVE AS USUAL, EH?
KOBAYASHI - GIVE ME A BREAK, WILL YOU? WHAT ABOUT YOU, THEN?
YEAH. I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD MAKE IT THROUGH THAT HUGE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS TO FINALLY BECOME A TEACHER EITHER.
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT KOBAYASHI'S PRETTY BOLD SO HE'S SUITED TO BEING A TEACHER...

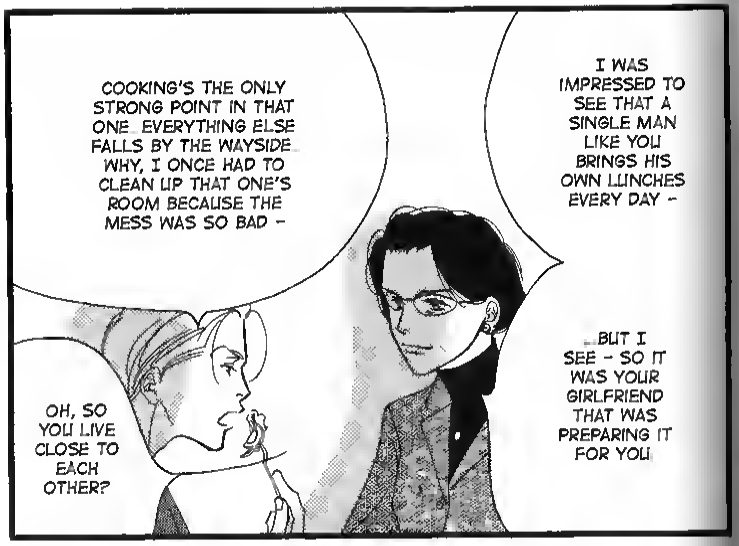
AND THIS IS WHERE KUTUZOV COMES IN

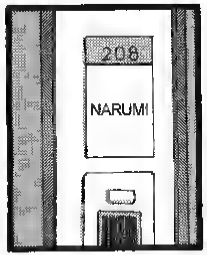

I WONDER IF GIANT IS EATING MY "BOX LUNCH OF LOVE" OVER IN KASUMIGASEKI RIGHT ABOUT NOW?
YEAH, I SUPPOSE.

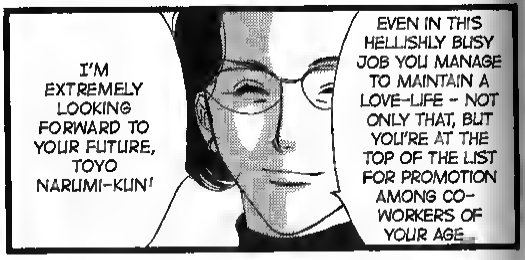
OH MY - WHAT DO YOU HAVE THERE? SALAD À LA NICE AND PANNINI BREAD WITH PROSCIUTTO. A VERY TRENDY LUNCH YOU'VE GOT, NARUMI-KUN!

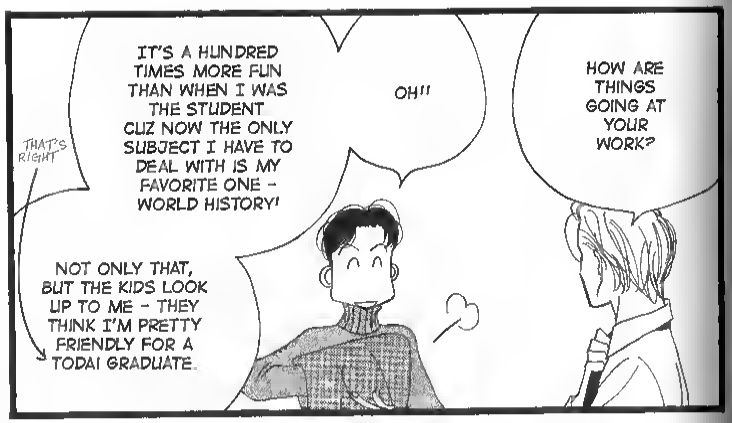
HA HA - FROM THAT TONE...
...I GATHER THE ONE WHO MADE THAT FOR YOU IS YOUR GIRLFRIEND, THEN

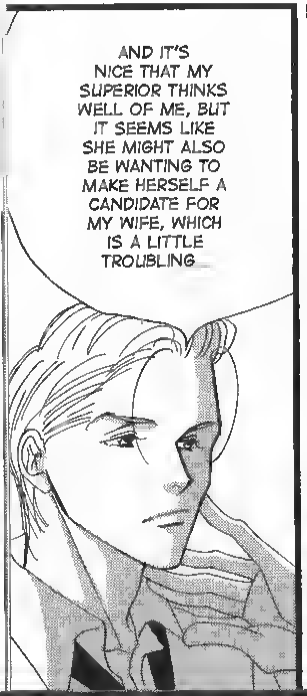

I'M SURE IT'S JUST AN INFATUATION WITH GOURMET CUISINE ON THE COOK'S PART.
IS THAT SO?

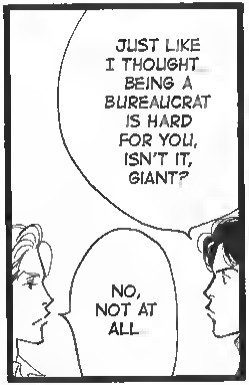

COOKING'S THE ONLY STRONG POINT IN THAT ONE. EVERYTHING ELSE FALLS BY THE WAYSIDE. WHY, I ONCE HAD TO CLEAN UP THAT ONE'S ROOM BECAUSE THE MESS WAS SO BAD -
I WAS IMPRESSED TO SEE THAT A SINGLE MAN LIKE YOU BRINGS HIS OWN LUNCHES EVERY DAY -
OH, SO YOU LIVE CLOSE TO EACH OTHER?
...BUT I SEE - SO IT WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND THAT WAS PREPARING IT FOR YOU.


208
NARUMI

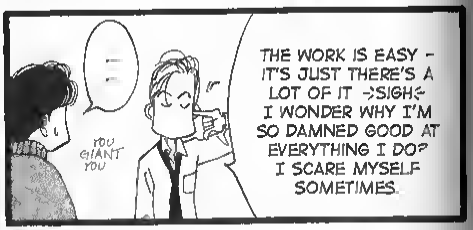

I'M EXTREMELY LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR FUTURE, TOYO NARUMI-KUN!
EVEN IN THIS HELLISHLY BUSY JOB YOU MANAGE TO MAINTAIN A LOVE-LIFE - NOT ONLY THAT, BUT YOU'RE AT THE TOP OF THE LIST FOR PROMOTION AMONG CO-WORKERS OF YOUR AGE.

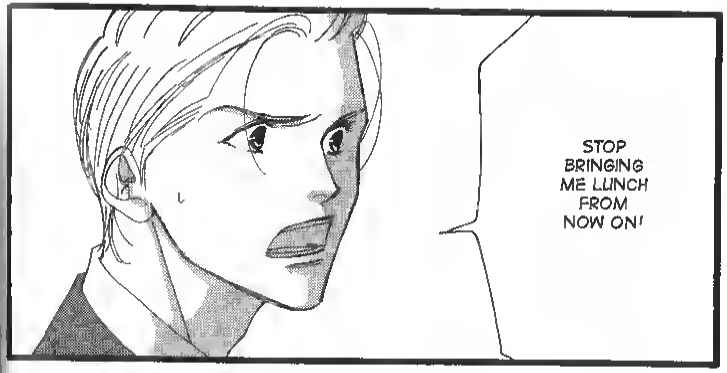

HOW ARE THINGS GOING AT YOUR WORK?
OH!!
IT'S A HUNDRED TIMES MORE FUN THAN WHEN I WAS THE STUDENT CUZ NOW THE ONLY SUBJECT I HAVE TO DEAL WITH IS MY FAVORITE ONE - WORLD HISTORY!
THAT'S RIGHT
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THE KIDS LOOK UP TO ME - THEY THINK I'M PRETTY FRIENDLY FOR A TODAI GRADUATE.

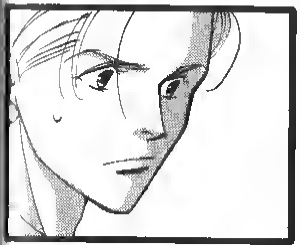

AND IT'S NICE THAT MY SUPERIOR THINKS WELL OF ME, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SHE MIGHT ALSO BE WANTING TO MAKE HERSELF A CANDIDATE FOR MY WIFE, WHICH IS A LITTLE TROUBLING

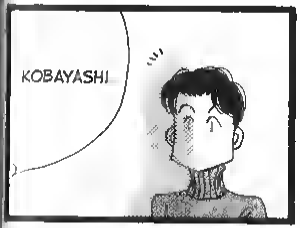

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT BEING A BUREAUCRAT IS HARD FOR YOU, ISN'T IT, GIANT?
NO, NOT AT ALL

I SEE.


YOU GIANT YOU
THE WORK IS EASY - IT'S JUST THERE'S A LOT OF IT -SIGH- I WONDER WHY I'M SO DAMNED GOOD AT EVERYTHING I DO? I SCARE MYSELF SOMETIMES.

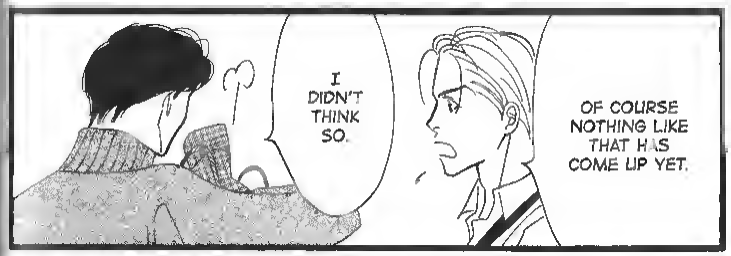

STOP BRINGING ME LUNCH FROM NOW ON!

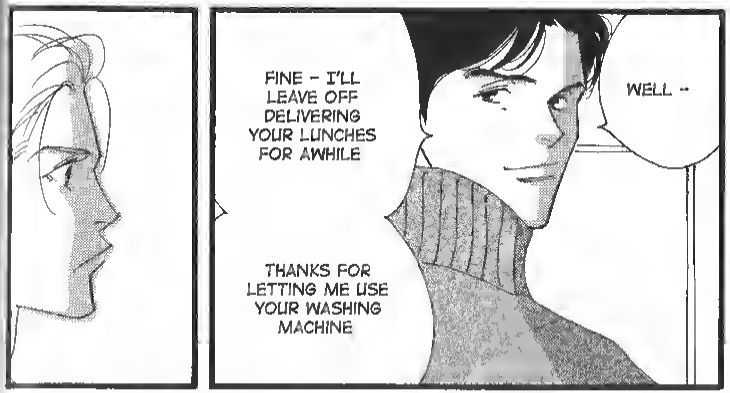



KOBAYASHI

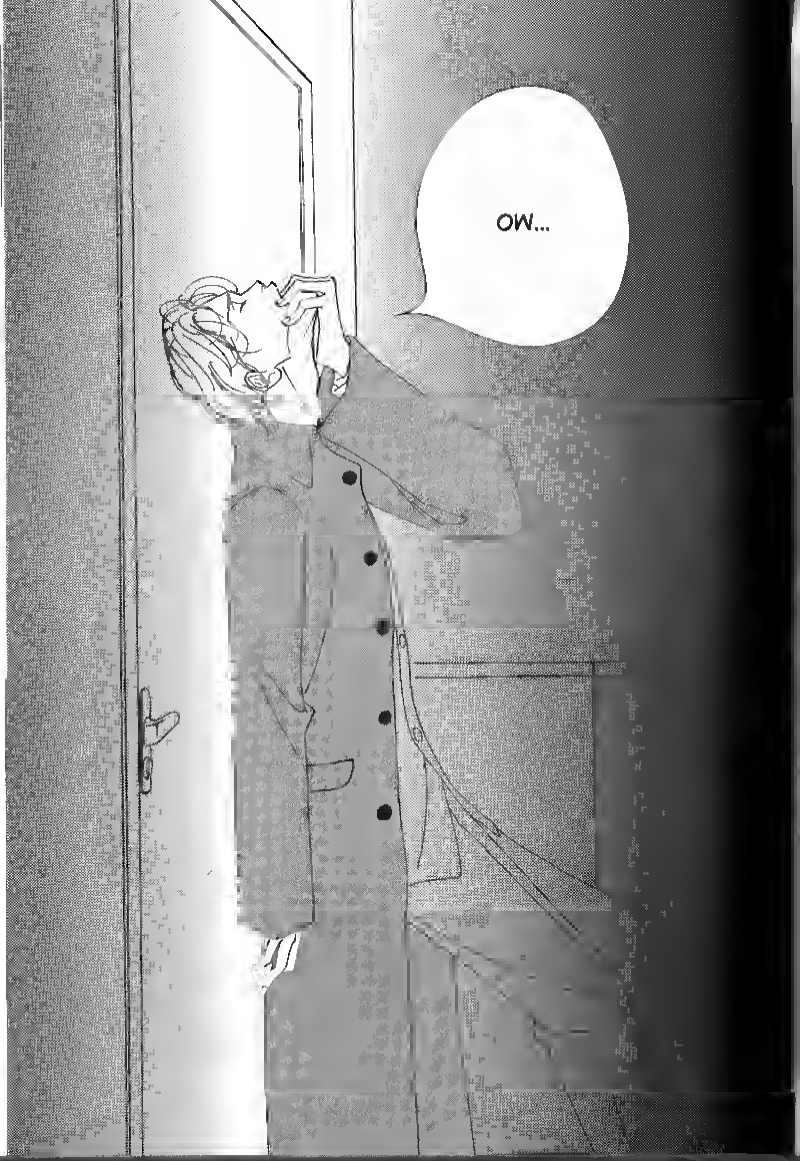
WHAAAT? BUT I'M TRYING TO SAVE BY BRINGING MY OWN LUNCH, AND COOKING FOR JUST ONE PERSON IS A PAIN
I JUST DON'T WANT TO GIVE MY SUPERIORS ANY OPPORTUNITY TO ANALYZE MY PERSONAL LIFE!

AFTER THAT, KOBAYASHI STOPPED BRINGING ME LUNCH.

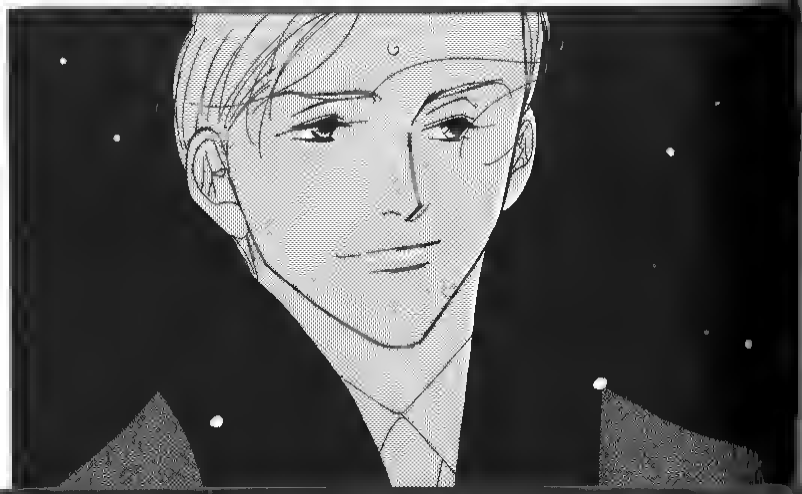




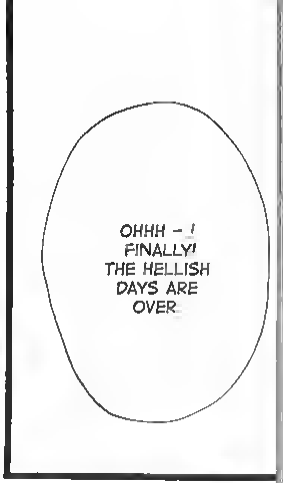
BECAUSE OF ALL THE FAST-FOOD I'D BEEN CONSUMING, I'D DEVELOPED AN INFLAMMATION IN MY MOUTH


OW...

IT'S NOT A SHE, IT'S A HE.
YES?
MS OHKOUCHI -



I'M GLAD FOR YOU.
TOMORROW'S THE FIRST FREE SUNDAY I'LL HAVE HAD IN A WHILE. I'M SO HAPPY!

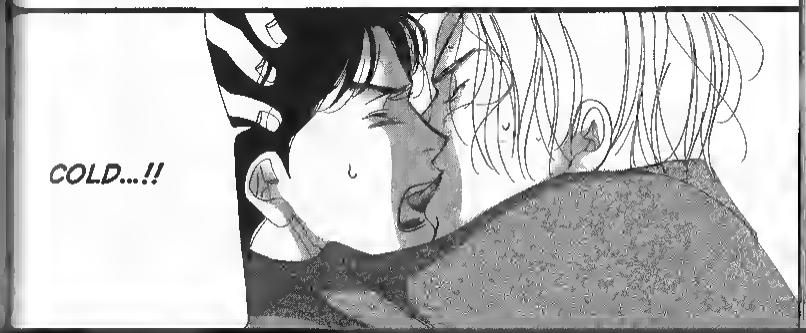

OHHH - ! FINALLY! THE HELLISH DAYS ARE OVER.

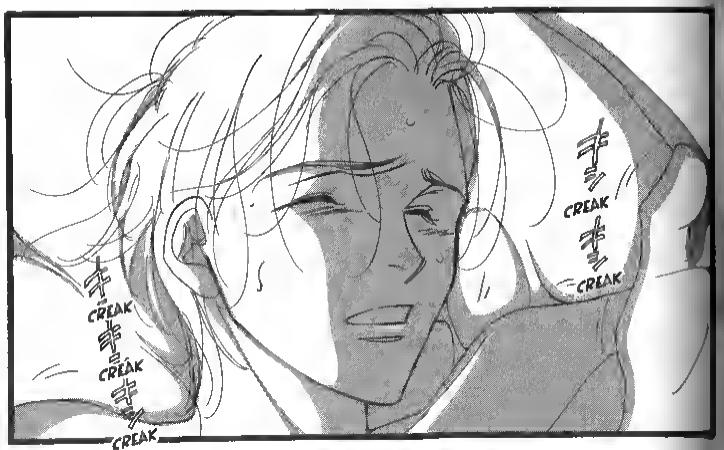
HOW ARE THINGS BETWEEN YOU? IS IT GOING WELL?
YOU'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR GIRLFRIEND, TOO - WON'T YOU, NARUMI-KUN?

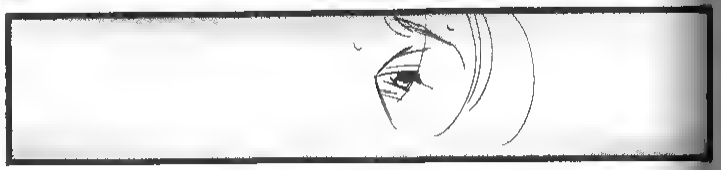
OH MY! THIS IS A BUSY ENOUGH JOB AS IT IS - THAT'S NOT GOOD. SHE'LL BE ANGRY WITH YOU!
ACTUALLY, I HAVEN'T EVEN CALLED ONCE THIS LAST MONTH.
I DON'T KNOW.

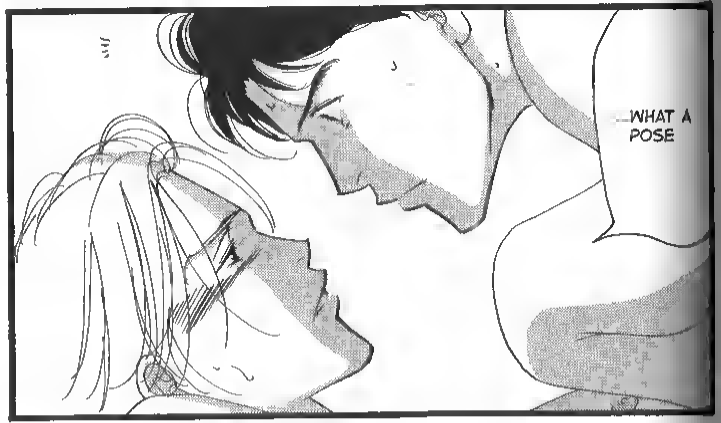
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! YOU'VE GOT A KEY, HAVEN'T YOU?!
DING DING DONG DONG DING DING DONG DONG
KCHAK!
PARDON ME.
WELL, I'LL BE GOING.
WHO ELSE WOULD RING THE BELL LIKE THAT?!
IT'S BEEN 40 DAYS... BUT YOU STILL KNEW IT WAS ME?
WHAT IS IT, ANYWAY?
102
KOBAYASHI
DING DING DONG DONG DING DONG

WERE YOU JUST STANDING OUTSIDE BEFORE YOU RANG THE BELL OR SOMETHING ?
GIANT, YOU'RE FREEZING COLD - HEY !!


COLD...!!


CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK




WHAT A POSE

SHOVE

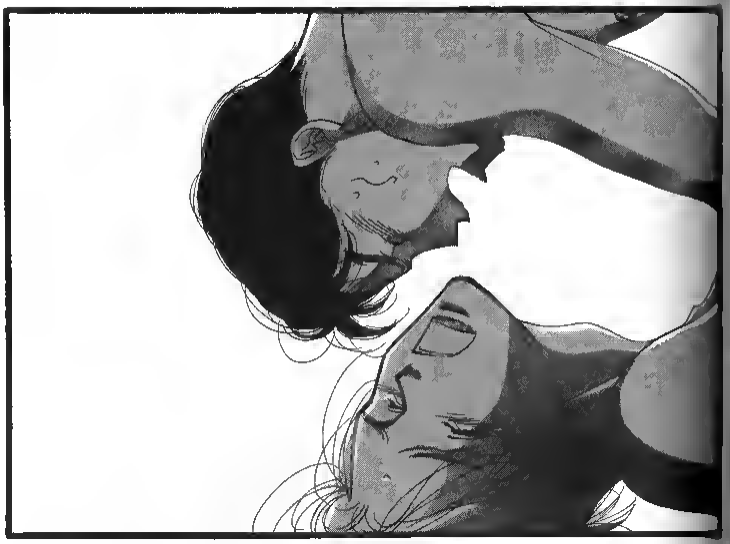
CREAK

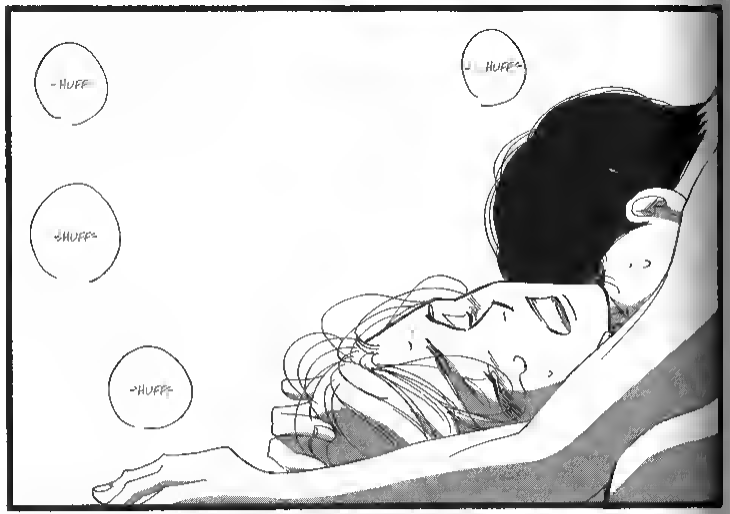
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK

UH...
UHH!!
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND!
UH!
UH!
UH!
UH!
-HAH-
-HAH-
-HAH-
-HAH-
-HAH-

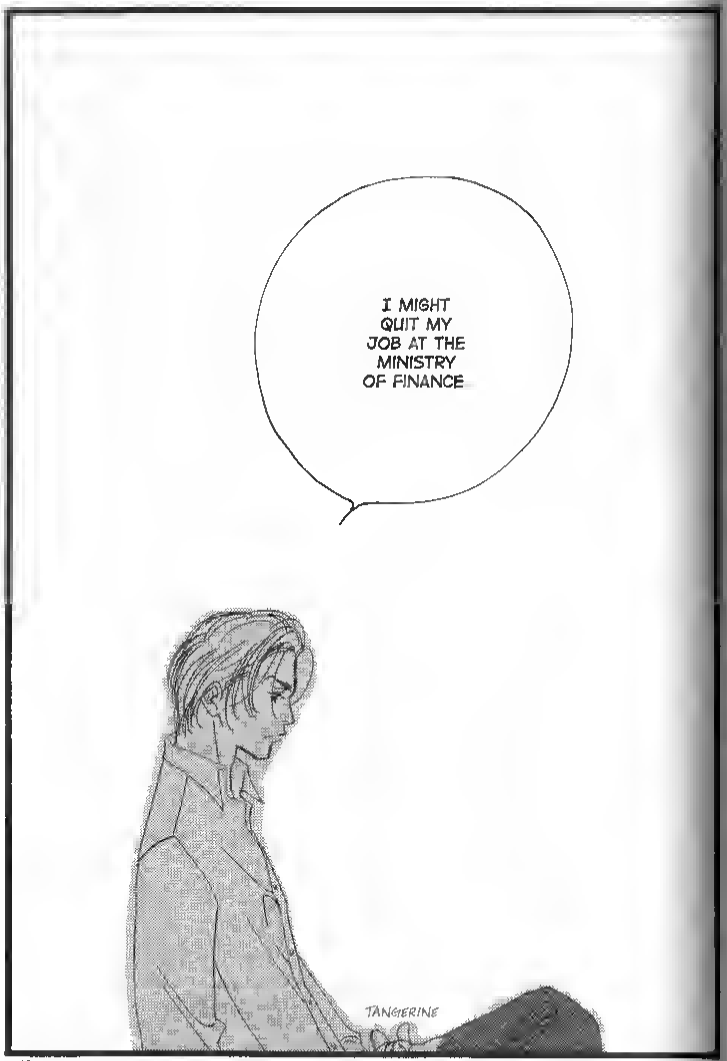
WOW.
HEH.

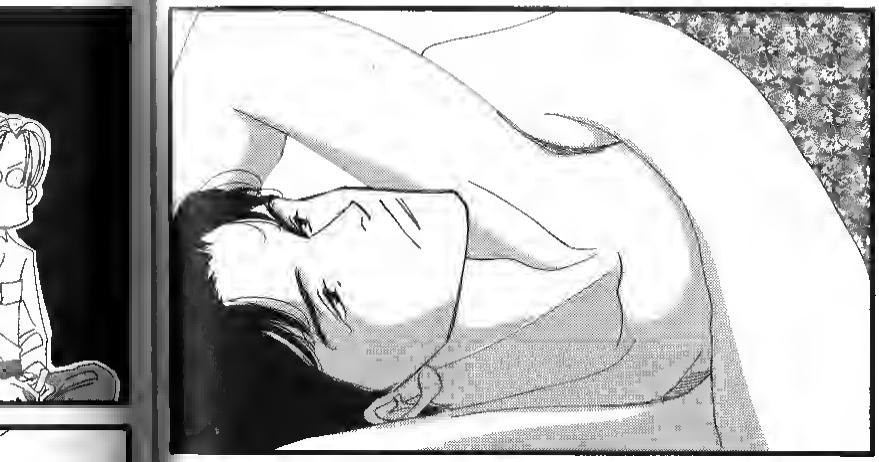
COMING -
I'M COMING
I'M COMINGGG...!!




-HUFF
-HUFF
-HUFF
-HUFF

...
SHAH
SHAH
SHAH
SHAH
SHAH
HURRY AND PULL OUT ALREADY, MORON


I MIGHT QUIT MY JOB AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
TANGERINE



GIANT -

I GUESS I COULD ALWAYS JUST BECOME A LAWYER OR SOMETHING, SINCE I ALREADY PASSED THE BAR EXAM DURING COLLEGE

BOOING

I ALREADY TOLD MY STUDENTS AND THE OTHER TEACHERS ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS THAT I'M GAY

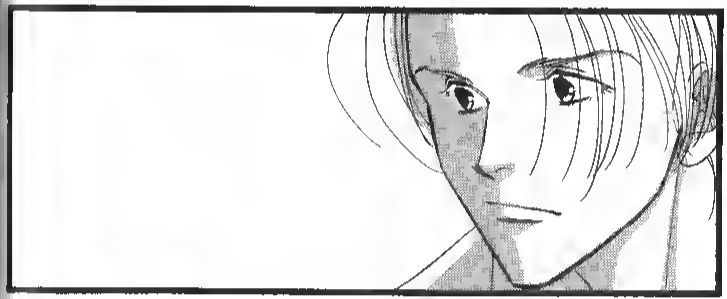
I MEAN, IT'S A PUBLIC SERVANT JOB - SO THEY CAN'T FIRE ME JUST BECAUSE I'M A HOMOSEXUAL.

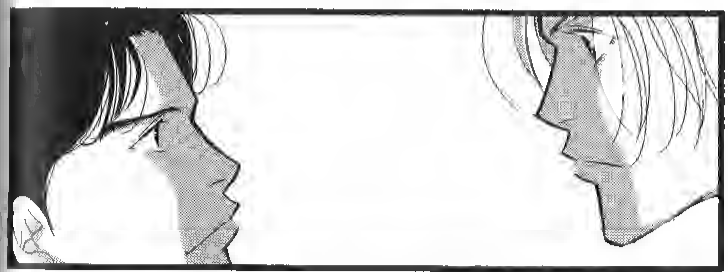
WHAT?! REALLY?!

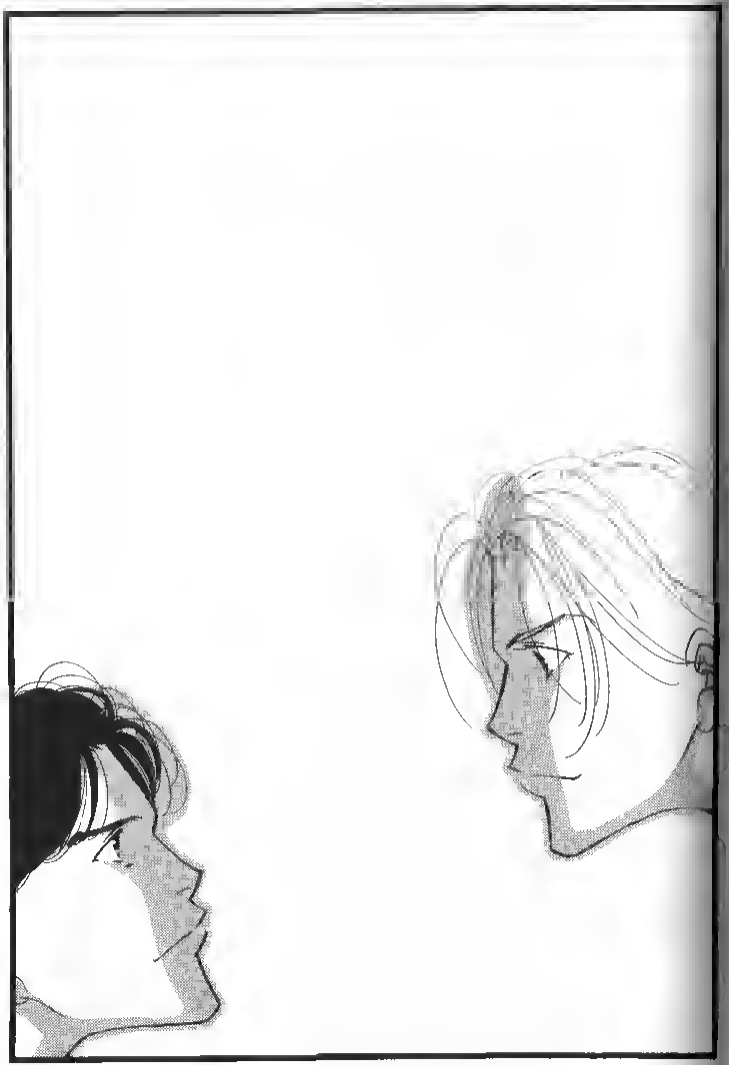
I'M NOT QUITTING MY JOB I LIKE BEING A TEACHER

U...UH - WELL, YEAH...BUT WON'T IT MAKE IT HARD FOR YOU IN THE WORKPLACE AND STUFF LIKE THAT?!

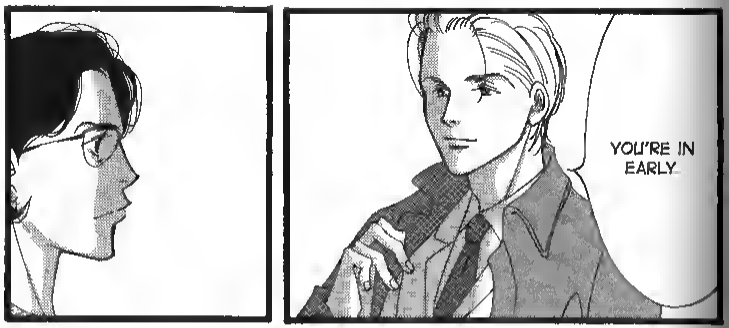
YOU LIKE YOUR JOB AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, TOO - DON'T YOU, GIANT?

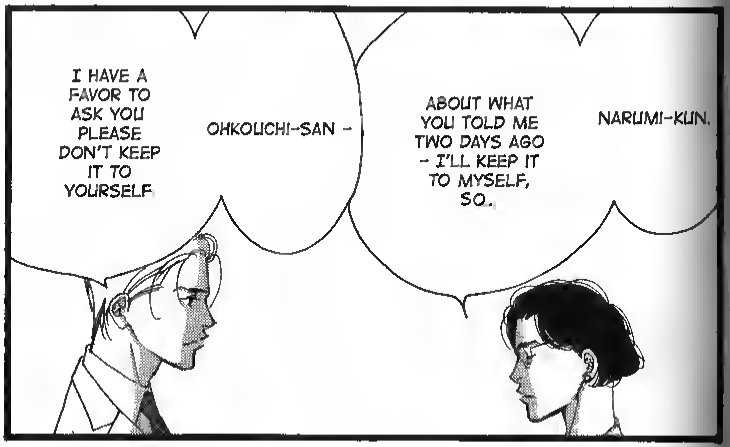


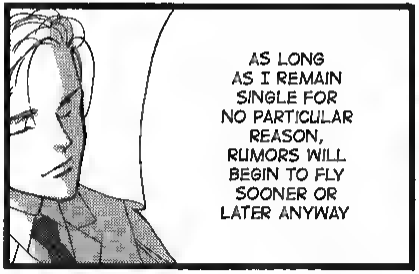




GOOD MORNING, NARUMI-KUN


YOU'RE IN EARLY.

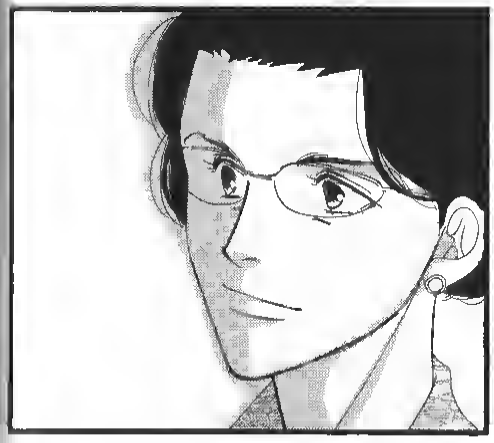

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU PLEASE DON'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF.
OHKOUCHI-SAN -
ABOUT WHAT YOU TOLD ME TWO DAYS AGO - I'LL KEEP IT TO MYSELF, SO.
NARUMI-KUN.


AS LONG AS I REMAIN SINGLE FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON, RUMORS WILL BEGIN TO FLY SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY

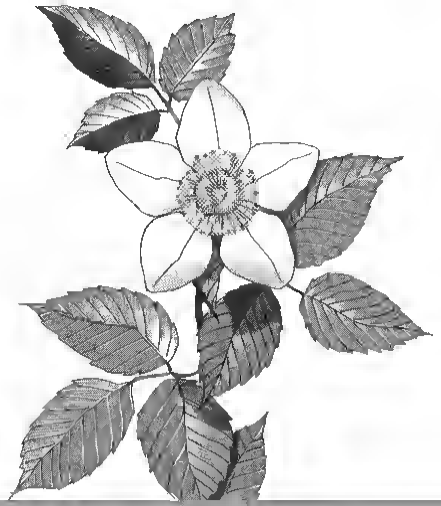
I'M SURE IT'LL BE NO BED OF ROSES, BUT I'M COUNTING ON YOU, TOYO NARUMI-KUN!
THE HANDSOME, GAY BUREAUCRAT WHO MANAGES TO JUGGLE BOTH WORK AND LOVE IN THIS HELLISHLY FRANTIC JOB - !
I'M IN YOUR DEBT

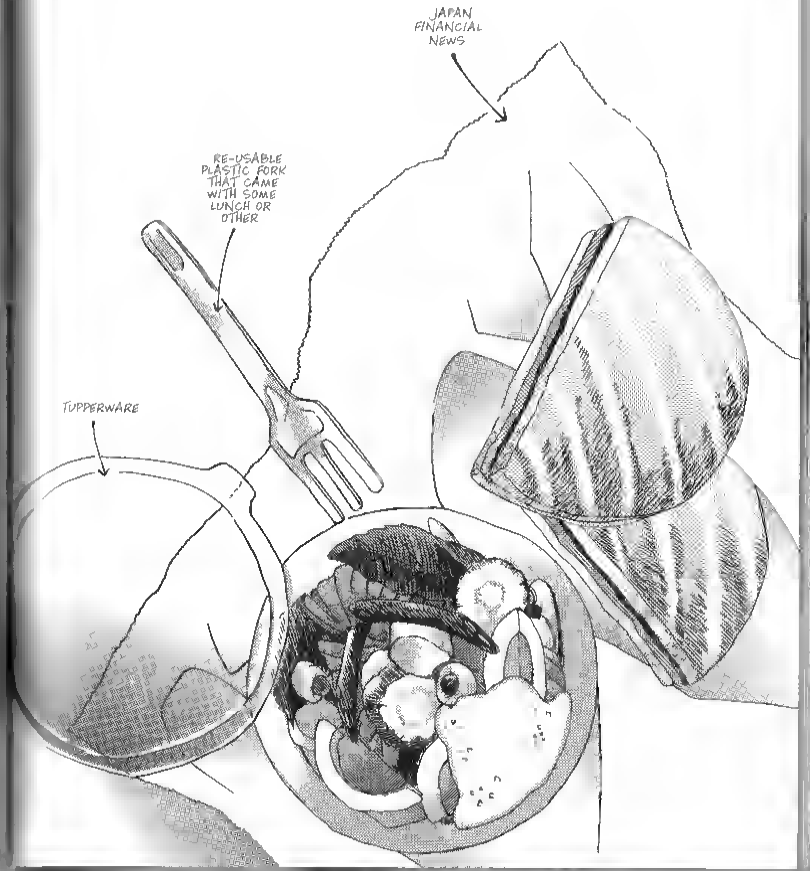
END

BUT IF I LEAVE IT TO YOU, OHKOUCHI-SAN... I'M CONFIDENT YOU'LL FIND A WAY TO GRACEFULLY AND TACTFULLY *LEAK* THIS INFORMATION ABOUT ME WITHIN THE OFFICE

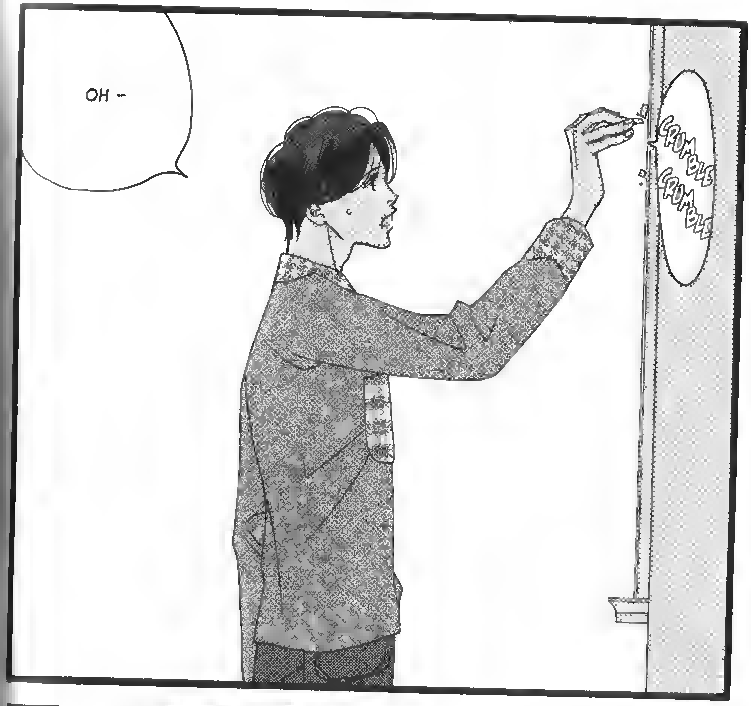


MR. IDA IS ONLY HUMAN.



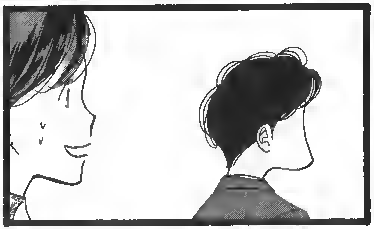


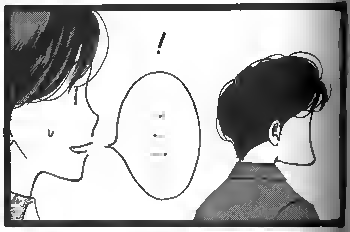
I'LL DIE
OH –
OH –
OH,
HASHIZUME –
I'M GONNA
DIE!


OH -
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE

NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP, TEACH? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD

OH -
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT -- I'M JUST NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP
I SEE...

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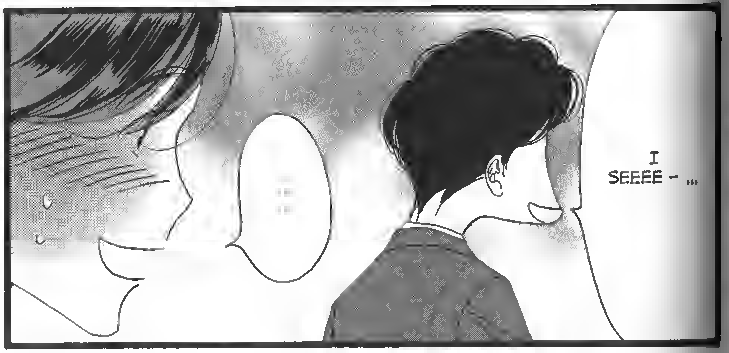

I SEEEE -...

BECAUSE

MM
WELCOME BACK, HASHIZUME.

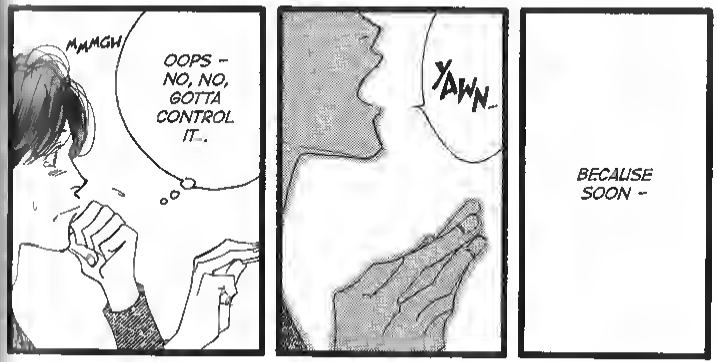
MMM.

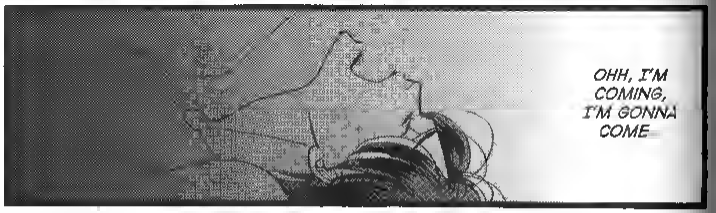
RUMPLE RUMPLE RUMPLE

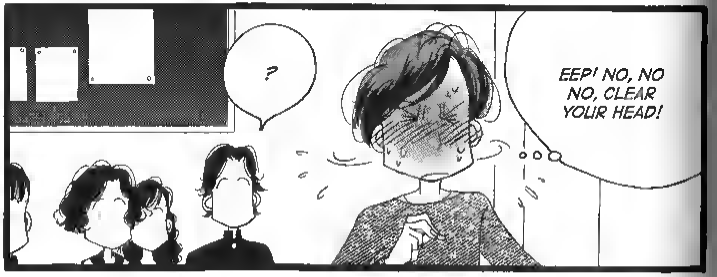
MM...
NFF...
MMPH...
KISS
SLURP
SLOP

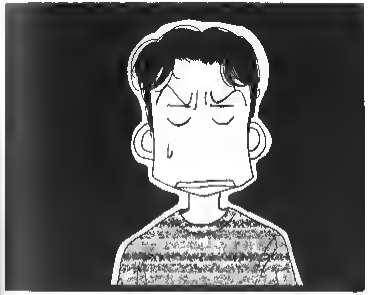
SLIP

OHHH –


MMMGH
OOPS – NO, NO, GOTTA CONTROL IT..
YAWN..
BECAUSE SOON –


OHH, I'M COMING, I'M GONNA COME..


?
EEP! NO, NO NO, CLEAR YOUR HEAD!



GOOD MORNING, KOBAYASHI. WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU WEREN'T MISTAKEN
SORRY FOR TEASING YOU THE OTHER DAY - I DIDN'T KNOW YOU REALLY WERE ILL!

HAGGARD -

I REALLY AM HAVING SEX EVERY NIGHT WITH HASHIZUME

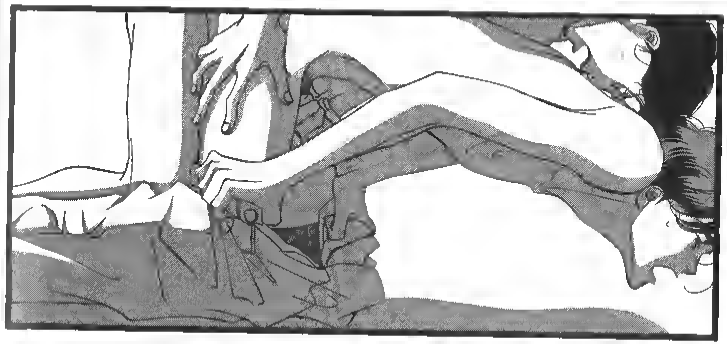
BECAUSE SOON IT WILL BE MAY -

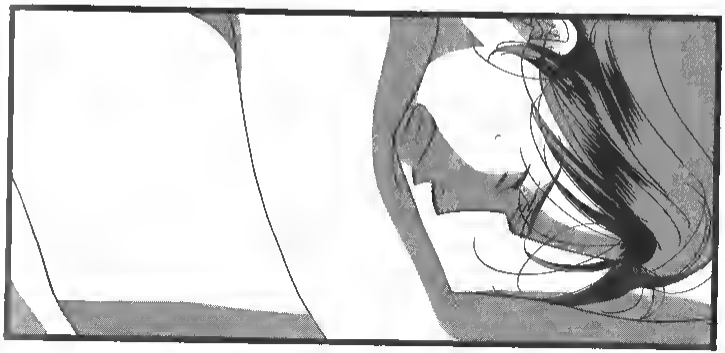
THONK

MMPH
MPH
MPH

MPH
MPH
MPH

WELCOME BACK





SHIVER - !

.....

I'M
GONNA
DIE_

MAYBE WE REALLY WILL DIE, DOING STUFF LIKE THIS EVERY DAY
WANT TO DIE?

SHALL WE JUST DIE LIKE THIS?

SORRY - IT WAS A BAD JOKE.
YEAH -

ALL RIIIIGHT! STARTING FROM TOMORROW, A WHOLE WEEK OFF FOR THE GOLDEN WEEK HOLIDAY!!

YEAH.

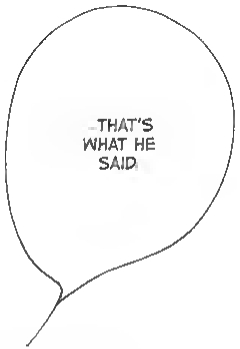
THAT WOULD BE JUST TOO BLISSFUL...

IT'S A PRIOR ENGAGEMENT WITH MY PARENTS -- WE'RE GOING OUT TO EAT. HASHIZUME, TOO..
HEY, TEACH -- IF YOU'RE FREE TODAY, LET'S GO OUT AND HAVE A DRINK!!
HE HE HE -- AND SINCE I'M NOT A STUDENT, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE MID-TERMS RIGHT AFTER VACATION ENDS, EITHER!
OH, SORRY... I CAN'T TODAY.
HUH? YOU GOT PLANS?
YOU'RE "COMING OUT" TO YOUR PARENTS?
DOES THAT MEAN --

YEAH.
GOOD LUCK TO YOU, TEACH!

THANKS!

GIANT IS ONLY HUMAN, TOO.



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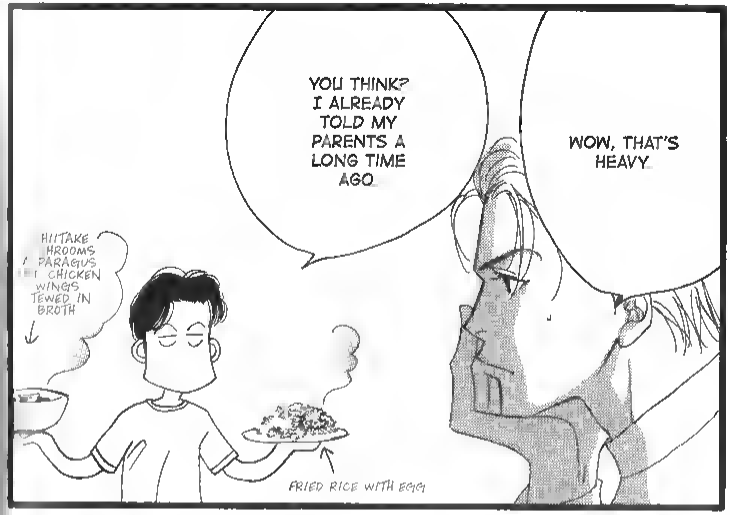
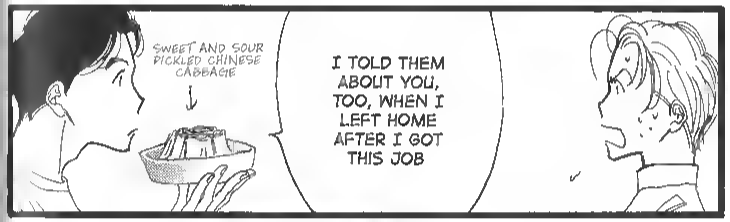
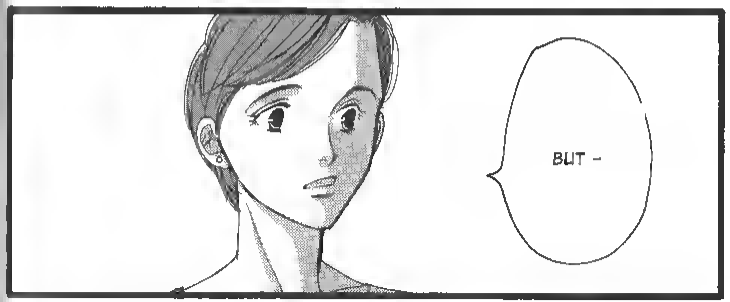
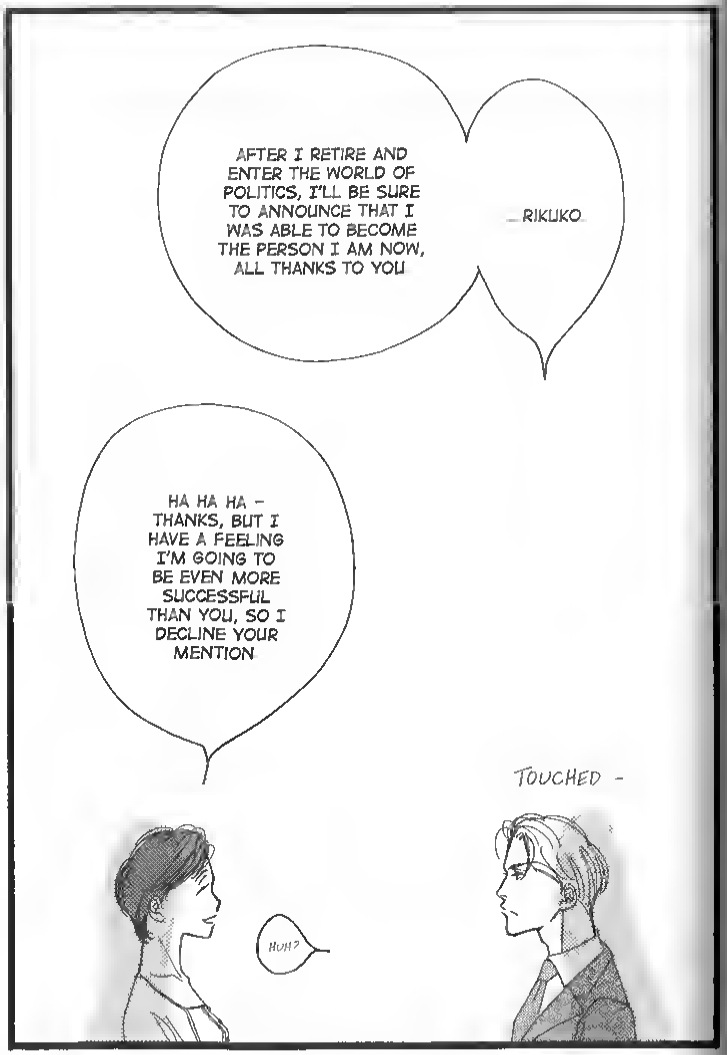

WOW, THAT'S HEAVY.
YOU THINK? I ALREADY TOLD MY PARENTS A LONG TIME AGO.
SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS
ASPARAGUS
CHICKEN WINGS STEWED IN BROTHY
FRIED RICE WITH EGG


I TOLD THEM ABOUT YOU, TOO, WHEN I LEFT HOME AFTER I GOT THIS JOB
SWEET AND SOUR PICKLED CHINESE CABBAGE


BUT -

THAT DAY IS GOING TO COME FOR YOU, TOO, BROTHER -
CUT IT OUT, RIKUKO.

BROTHER -
SIMULATING MANY POSSIBLE SCENARIOS BUT FORESEES A BAD OUTCOME FOR ALL OF THEM


AFTER I RETIRE AND ENTER THE WORLD OF POLITICS, I'LL BE SURE TO ANNOUNCE THAT I WAS ABLE TO BECOME THE PERSON I AM NOW, ALL THANKS TO YOU.
—RIKUKO
HA HA HA – THANKS, BUT I HAVE A FEELING I'M GOING TO BE EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN YOU, SO I DECLINE YOUR MENTION.
TOUCHED –
HUH?

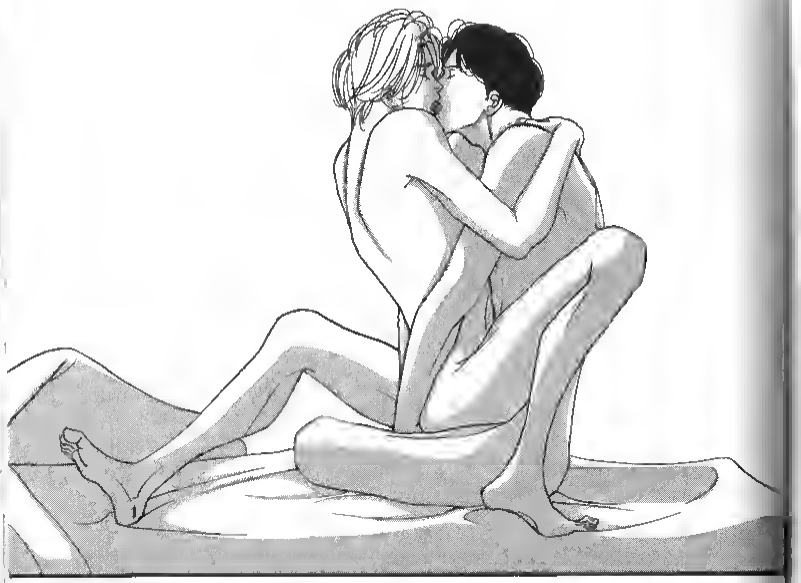
END

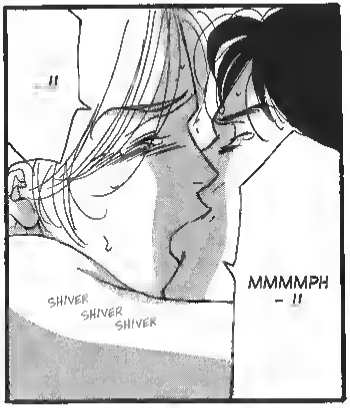
JUST REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT, THAT YOUR ALLY IS SITTING RIGHT HERE.

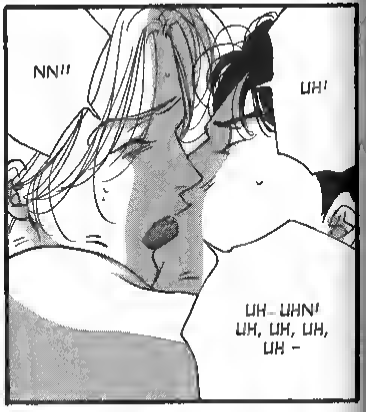
KOBAYASHI'S, TOO.

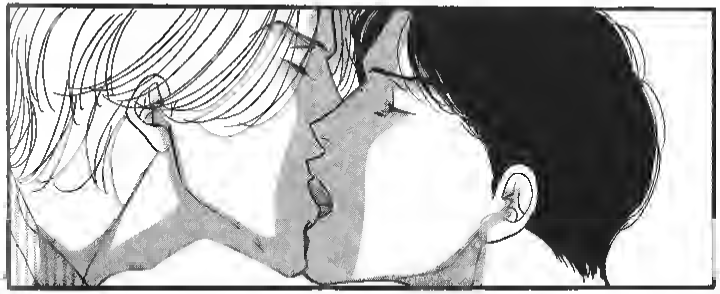
NOW THIS IS PARADISE!!
WOO HOO - !!
ちゃぽーん!
SPLOOSH!

SPLOOOSH
I ONLY TOLERATE THEM BECAUSE IT'S REQUIRED OF ME AS A CIVILIZED HUMAN BEING... IS IT REALLY THAT MUCH FUN?
BATHS, HUH...?
OH OKA ECHIZEN'S THEME SONG!
SPLASH - // LALALA - HUM HMM HM HM -
THAT'S GIANT FOR YOU. CAN'T CARRY A TUNE TO SAVE HIS LIFE
OHHHH MAN - A BATH IS REALLY THE BEST IN A BIG, DEEP TUB!
SLAM!
AT LEAST YOU LOOK CUTE WITH YOUR BANGS DOWN...
HUH?
WHAT?




SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
MMMMPH
– !!


NN!!
UH!
UH– UHN!
UH, UH, UH,
UH –



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HEY LET'S STAY LIKE THIS TILL MORNING, GIA-
BLINK!
WHEW - .
-HUFF-
おく!!
WAKE!!
WHAT?!
OHHH, I WORKED UP A SWEAT - I NEED ANOTHER BATH!!
EH, SO WHAT? I'M COMING, MY LOVELY DEEP AND SPACIOUS BATHTUB! ♡
A BATH AGAIN?! SEX IS A FORM OF COMMUNICATION, YOU KNOW! IT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE TIME AFTERWARDS TO - HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING?!
SHP
WELL BUT I GUESS I DON'T CARE WHERE WE LIVE AS LONG AS WE CAN BE TOGETHER!
AND WHO DO YOU THINK FOUND AND PAID HALF FOR THAT DEEP-AND-SPACIOUS-TUB-INCLUDED CONDO THAT'S CONVENIENTLY LOCATED SO CLOSE TO KASUMIGASEKI?!
END.

When love's on the rebound...
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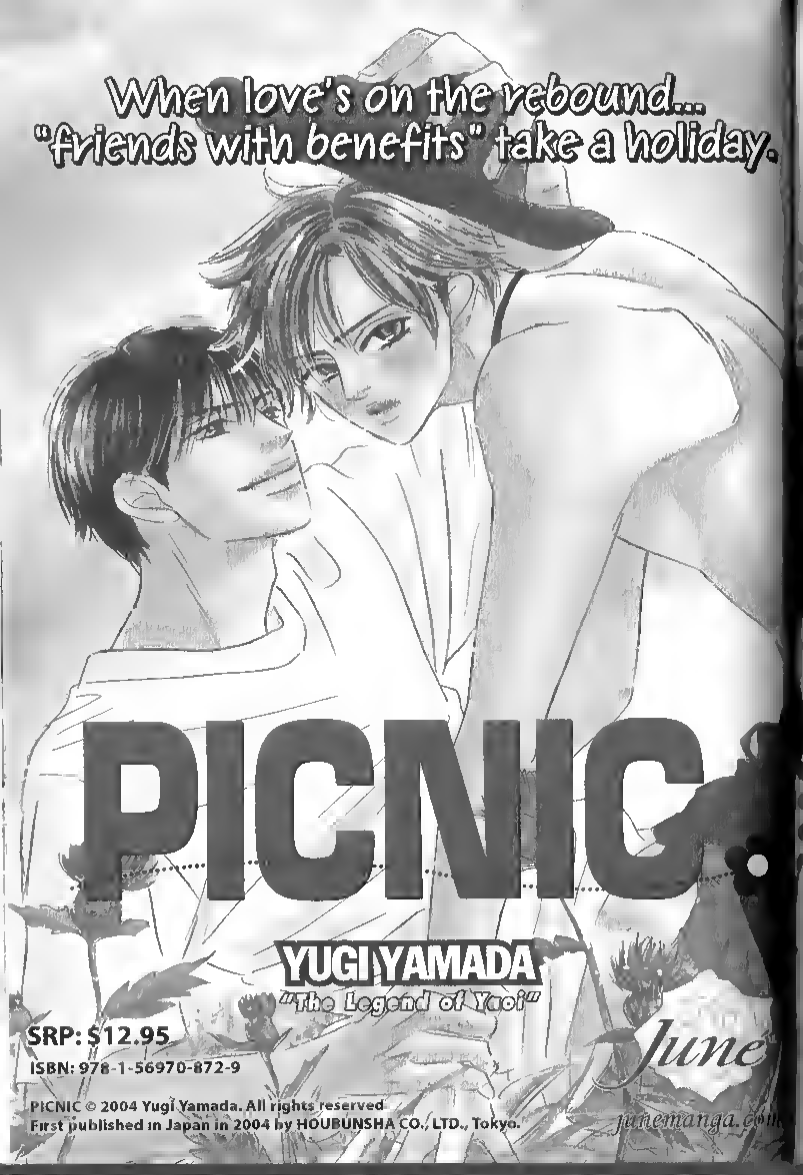

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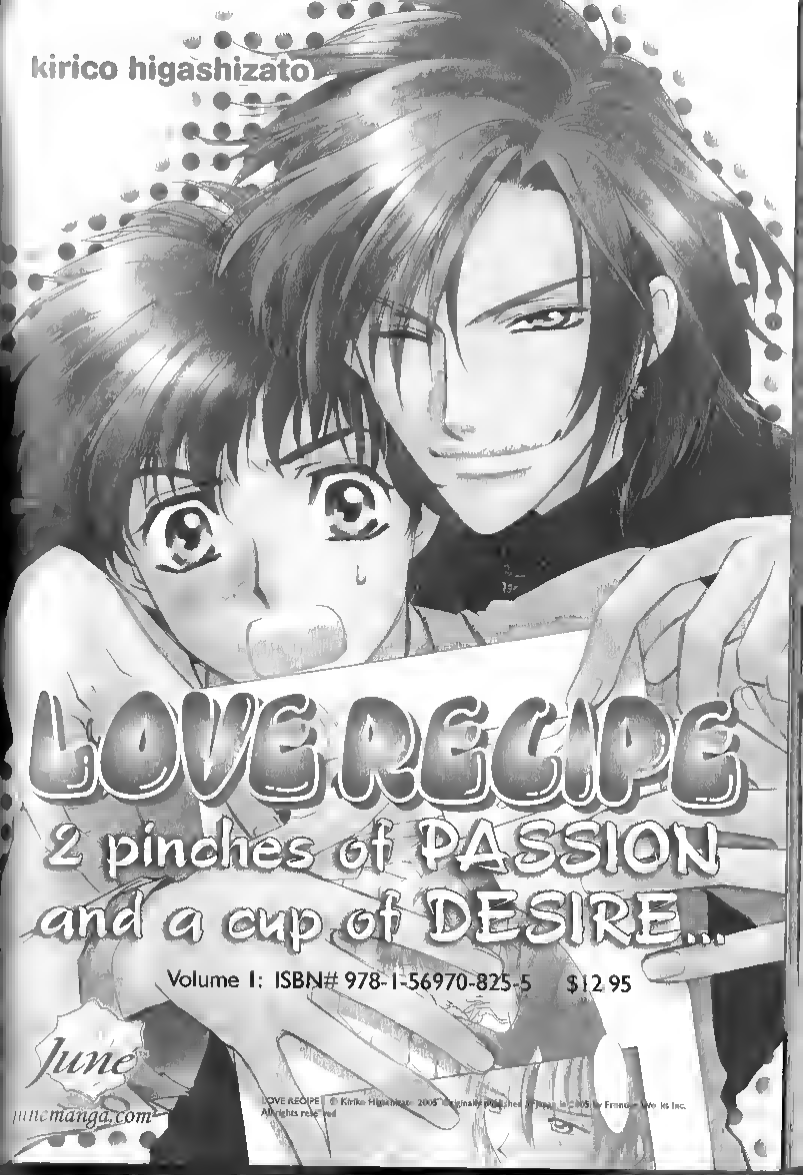

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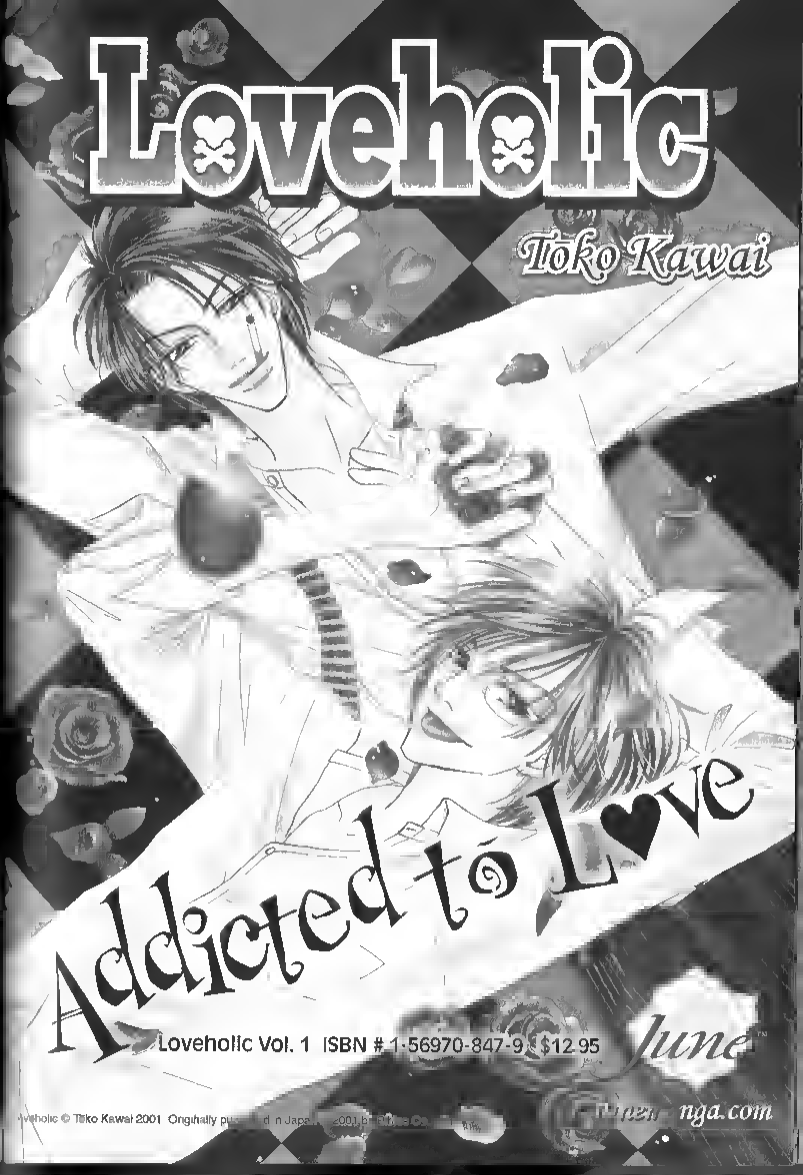

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